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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-026 *8 February 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations Begin in Cairo

PA Official Previews Talks

NC0702090295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority [PA], arrived in Cairo early this morning to take part in a new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks to begin in Cairo later today.

In an arrival statement 'Urayqat praised the efforts President Mubarak and the Egyptian diplomatic body are making to put the peace process back on the right track. He remarked that Egypt is right now the basic sponsor of the peace process, steering it back on course whenever it goes astray. He noted the importance of the quadripartite summit meeting held in Cairo recently, describing it as unprecedented.

'Urayqat criticized decisions announced by the Israeli Government last Sunday [5 February] concerning the continuing settlement activity and procrastination over releasing Palestinian detainees and opening crossing gates between the West Bank and Gaza. He said these decisions put the peace process in a difficult position only four days after the quadripartite summit.

He added that efforts now focus on helping the upcoming summit between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to succeed. He pointed out that the outcome of that summit will be the real judge of whether the peace process has returned to the right course.

Touching on the current round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to begin in Cairo today, 'Urayqat said: We will try to find a common formula to resolve the issues pertaining to elections in the phased agreement. According to the Declaration of Principles, the Israel troops will be redeployed, the military rules and orders currently in effect will be reviewed, powers will be transferred, and legislative elections will be held, he said.

'Urayqat added: We will discuss the papers we put forward at earlier rounds concerning the definition and nature of the proposed national council, including electing the Palestinian Authority chairman separately from council members on the same day.

He pointed out that the Palestinian delegation put forward a paper in the previous round on the agreed supervision of the elections. The delegation suggested forming a committee of eight judges—two from Egypt, two from America, two from Russia, and two from the European Union—to supervise the implementation of what was agreed on in Cairo regarding the elections.

'Urayqat expressed the hope that this round will produce a joint formula on the various topics so that he can go back to the 'Arafat- Rabin meeting, using what he has gathered to contribute to its success. He remarked that the meeting is being held under very difficult conditions.

PA: Opposition Can Participate in Elections

JN0702211095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations on elections, has stated that the Palestinian Authority supports the participation of the Palestinian political opposition in the forthcoming legislative elections.

Before meeting with the Israeli side in Cairo today, 'Asfur said that Israel's agreement to the Palestinian stand on the participation of the opposition is the result of the Palestinian side's emphasis that it is holding democratic elections.

Negotiations Open

NC0702141195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Pa[illegible]inian-Israeli negotiations on holding legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza resumed today. The heads of the two delegations, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government with the Palestinian Authority [PA], and Joel Zinger, legal adviser to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, held a private meeting this afternoon to discuss the issues that will be raised during this round of negotiations and remove any obstacles to these talks.

The other members of the delegations will join the bilateral meeting later today.

The head of the Israeli delegation told correspondents that in every round of talks the two sides make more progress than was made at the previous round on the issue of elections. He said: We agreed with the Palestinians that an agreement should be drafted during this round.

Hasan 'Usfur, official in charge of negotiations for the PA, said the two sides will try to draft an agreement during this round. He said the Palestinians stress the need for all the Palestinian forces, including Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], to participate in any legislative elections. Only the forces that reject democracy will be excluded from the elections, he said.

He added: We want a democratic, unrestricted legislative council, and we want the elections to be free.

Palestinian sources in Cairo said that during this round of talks, the two sides will try to bring their views on the number of legislative council members closer. The Palestinians want the council to comprise 100 members including representatives from Jerusalem, while the Israelis want the number to be 25, without representatives from Jerusalem.

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The sources said the negotiators are expected to agree on the conditions on which the candidates and voters must meet. All the factions should be able to participate except for those that adopt racist positions.

The Palestinian sources noted the importance of redeploying the Israeli forces outside Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank before the start of the elections to ensure their integrity and objectivity.

The sources said this subject will be discussed in the meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin at the Erez checkpoint on Thursday [9 February]. They said that if the two sides fail to reach an agreement on this issue, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to hold legislative elections.

The Israeli delegation to the talks arrived at the Palestinian delegation's residence at 1200 today to begin the first session of negotiations.

The Palestinian delegation is due to visit the Israeli delegation's residence on 8 February to hold the second and final session of negotiations.

First Session Concludes

NC0702180795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have ended the first session of talks within the current round of negotiations on the holding of legislative elections in the areas under the Palestinian National Authority.

A private meeting was held between Palestinian delegation chief Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Israeli delegation chief Joel Zinger before members of the two delegations joined the meeting.

The Israeli official said all issues related to the elections were discussed during the meeting.

He said no results have so far been attained, adding that the negotiations will resume this evening and tomorrow morning.

Asked about the expected date of the legislative elections in the Palestinian territory, Zinger said this depends on the reaching of an agreement. This has not yet happened, he said.

'Urayqat: Palestinians Ready for Elections

NC0702221095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on elections for the Palestinian legislative council, has stated that the Palestinian side believes that the PNA will be open to every Palestinian over 18 years, regardless of his ideological or political affiliations, and whether or not he agrees with the peace process.

In his definition of the nature and conditions of this council, 'Urayqat said in a news conference he held this evening after the evening session of the negotiations that excluding any party from nominating themselves or voting for this council deprives the elections of their democratic character. He affirmed that it is unimaginable for the Palestinians to talk about a democratic system without there being any opposition.

'Urayqat affirmed that the Palestinian side is ready for the election process. He pointed out that the election law is ready and regional election offices have been opened. The election lists have also been finalized and 5000 Palestinian cadres have been trained to administer 1500 ballot boxes in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have moved during this round of talks from the stage of exchanging ideas and proposals to the stage of a joint formulation of the agreement over numerous issues, particularly the concept behind, and nature of the Palestine National Council. He also added that this does not mean that there is agreement over all the issues.

'Urayqat once again affirmed that holding elections depends on redeploying the Israeli forces and transferring the remaining civilian powers to the residents of the West Bank. He expressed his hope that the Israeli side will respond positively to all issues dealing with the elections.

'Urayqat said: We want a council consisting of 100 members. We want the president of the council to be elected on the same day but in a separate manner than the election of its members.

On the other hand, the third and last round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations is supposed to resume tomorrow, Wednesday, morning.

'Urayqat: No Progress on Elections

NC0802131095 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Feb 8 (AFP)—Talks on plans for Palestinian elections failed to produce any progress ahead of a meeting between PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the chief Palestinian negotiator here said Wednesday [8 February].

"Unfortunately, I have nothing to tell chairman 'Arafat which could make tomorrow's summit a success," negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat said ahead of the summit Thursday at the Erez crossing from Israel to the Gaza Strip.

'Urayqat on Elections, Israeli Practices

JN0702213995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1950 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, by Ahmad Birru in Cairo on 7 February—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Palestinian minister of local government, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed in Cairo today... [break in transmission for 20 seconds]

['Urayqat, in progress] ...The redeployment, the transfer of the authorities, and reviewing the law. During the past eight rounds, and this is the ninth round, the Israeli delegation focused on the concept, nature, and makeup of the council, as well as the criteria, the voters, the candidates, and the agreed upon supervising committee. In fact, we expected them to present their positions on these issues, which are necessary for the phases agreement. A session will be held this evening. We hope we will begin to formulate the concept of the proposed council, particularly that pertaining to the election of the council and the head of the authority.

[Birru] Does this mean that the main topic is the elections and the redeployment of the forces, which will be discussed during the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting at Erez checkpoint in two days?

['Urayqat] These current Cairo negotiations are focusing on the elections. The redeployment, the transfer of authority, and the review of the law will be discussed by President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. This is the ninth round of talks on elections. We hope, as I have said, to formulate the concept of the proposed council and the details of its legislative and executive duties and their interaction, as well as its judiciary authority and the election of the president apart from the council. These points should be mentioned in the phased agreement. This is what we want to do.

[Birru] The Israeli authority is no longer determined, according to Israeli delegation sources, to exclude Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and opponents of the peace process from participation in the elections. Will Israel set conditions for taking part in these elections, and will you ask the Palestinian opposition to commit themselves in advance to the self-rule agreement?

['Urayqat] In fact, the Palestinian position was discussed from the first round of the negotiations. According to law any 18-year-old Palestinian, regardless of his race, his political and intellectual links, his social and economic status, his ownership, or his religion, is entitled to take part in the elections. Democracy necessarily means the existence of an opposition, and there is no meaning for democracy without that opposition. These elections are in the final analysis Palestinian and not Israeli. They are aimed at electing a Palestinian council. It is not a joint Palestinian-Israeli project. We say we should agree on the points that should be included in the agreement. These points are stipulated in the Declaration of Principles. Israel focuses on certain points. As you know, we are not after an independent state or independent elections. The elections are for a transitional period. According to the Palestinian election law, every 18-year-old Palestinian regardless of his race, religion, political affiliation, intellectual trend, his support or opposition to the peace process, has the right to take part in the elections. Only those who have racist opinions and who do not believe in democracy will be excluded. This is a tradition throughout the world. However, there will not be exclusions of people for their support or opposition to the peace process.

[Birru] The Palestinian Authority [PA] today launched an arrest campaign against opposition Palestinian organizations such as the Islamic Jihad, Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine following the operation that led to the killing of an Israeli? Will the Palestinian police continue the arrest campaign if these organizations do anything against Israel?

['Urayqat] In fact, there is commitment to the peace process, and we are doing our best to give the peace process the chance it deserves. But I believe that the current cycle of violence and counterviolence will only end through a quick and honest implementation of the agreement that would end the Israeli occupation. The leaders may sign peace agreements, but peace can prevail only through the feeling of an ordinary man who sees a positive change and tries to protect it. This is real peace. We are doing our best and we say that there should be quick action to remove the Israeli occupation [words indistinct].

[Birru] What is your position on the question of separation as decided by Israel with the self-rule area and the other occupied Palestinian territories, and how will the Palestinian Authority confront the additional economic crisis which tens of thousands of Palestinian workers who work in Israel will face?

['Urayqat] Let me say the following: Separation is the objective of the peace process—separation from the political conception and separation between the two peoples in order to have two states. However, what Israel is practicing on the ground is not a political separation, but it is a political and economic suffocation. What it is doing is a sort of collective punishment. They are behaving as if the Palestinian territories are part of an Israeli estate. This fully conflicts with the agreement. This is a kind of political blackmail and not political separation. I believe that it is a continuation of the Israeli mentality to behave as occupier, whether through continuing settlement activities, expanding settlements—especially in Jerusalem and around the city, through economic suffocation, and through continuing to kill our people in the streets there. Some 236 Palestinians have been martyred in the West Bank since the signing of Oslo agreement. If the Israeli Government decides to continue this policy, I believe that the peace process will have no chance.

[Birru] The implementation of Palestinian-Israeli agreement, as it is noted, is faltering and being delayed as PA leaders themselves admit. In an interview with a British Magazine, Nabil Sha'th has warned that the failure to implement the agreement will make it necessary to

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renegotiate a new agreement. He has warned of several possibilities, including the continuation of the intifadah, and of even a war. Is the situation really so dangerous?

['Urayqat] I believe that Gaza and Jericho were not an objective in themselves. They were not meant to be a testing ground. Gaza and Jericho have been a stage that should have lasted for just three months before the Israeli forces redeployment—their withdrawal from the densely-populated areas in the West Bank in order to have Palestinian legislative elections and a Palestinian council. Now, we have been delayed by eight months. I think the continuation of this delay put the peace process in a very delicate dilemma. I believe that possibilities for both the failure or the success of the peace process are there, but what I want to say is that the results of the failure of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track will not be restricted to this track but will include all other tracks and the region. There is no room now for speculating on the details on what could happen if the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track collapses. In fact, there is danger of a collapse of the peace process if Israel continues its practices.

[Birru] What are the means that the PA will use inside and outside to force Israel to implement the agreement as scheduled?

['Urayqat] In fact, there are comprehensive Arab efforts—there are efforts on the Arab level, efforts on the level of the peace process sponsors, whether with the United States or Russia—but regrettably there is little potential for these efforts, especially in light of the complete U.S. bias and the political blindness Washington has toward Israel, and Russia's engagement in its own affairs. As you note, for more than one year, Egypt has become the sponsor of the peace process. But in the end, what is important is not the direction of the efforts or the kind of meetings and summits that are held because all these issues are tested by the Israeli practices on the ground. As you also note, three days after the four-way summit in Cairo, Israel renewed the closure, continued its settlement activities, and continued the policy of using Gaza and Jericho as a testing ground. I think that eventually, Israel should choose either to continue the policy of occupation and settlements, thus aborting the peace process, or it should favor peace, and thus the occupation and others issues will be over. If Israel or the Israeli leadership is searching for a formula that ensures continuation of settlements, occupation, and control of occupied Arab territories and at the same time speaks about peace-making with the Arabs, I think this formula is utterly unrealistic. The formula is clear—it calls for land for peace, and the return of the occupied Arab territories in return for peace. The choice is up to Israel.

[Birru] One last question: Do you expect an important breakthrough from the Erez meeting between PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin the day after tomorrow?

['Urayqat] In fact this depends on Israel's intentions. I agree that this meeting will be a very important one, especially in light of the recent Israeli practices, such as the continuation of the closure and settlements and the failure to release the prisoners. I think if the situation continues the same, things will reach a very delicate point.

[Birru] Is this because the meeting will be held after the Cairo summit?

['Urayqat] In fact, we expected that after the Cairo summit that Israel would immediately take the measures that would facilitate moving ahead in implementing what had been agreed on in the Declaration of Principles and the other negotiations. However, three days after the Cairo summit, Israel adopted a host of escalatory measures. If these measures continue until the next summit on Thursday, I believe we will be in a real dilemma.

[Birru] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Thank you.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

Agreement Said Reached on Taba Talks' Communique

NC0802090095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0732 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 8 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that efforts by the economy and trade ministers of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the United States have succeeded in issuing a final communique on the Taba economic talks.

Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian self-rule authority, had expressed reservations over the draft final communique unless it stipulated lifting the Israeli economic blockade of the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. Trade Secretary Ronald Brown met the Palestinian official, who said afterward that he would sign the agreement providing Israel imposes no blockade on the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

MENA has learned that the final communique stipulates free trade among the participants in the meeting—Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, and the United States. The communique also provides for new bases for economic and security cooperation among the five and for establishing two economic bodies to develop economic ties among the participants.

The U.S. trade secretary has emphasized that a durable peace in the region requires economic cooperation and jobs for the region's people by establishing joint projects and increasing investment.

Ministers Discuss Regional Cooperation

NC0802092595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 8 Feb (MENA)—The economy and trade ministers of Egypt, the United States, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, and Israel

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began their meetings this morning to discuss regional economic cooperation in the area.

A final communique on the Taba meeting will be issued later, asserting the importance of expediting investment and creating jobs in the Palestinian Authority.

The ministers are also discussing ways to promote trade among the participating countries.

Palestinian sources told MENA that the Palestinian side will ask that the Israeli economic blockade of the West Bank and Gaza be lifted and restrictions on trade in the Palestinian territories eased.

The five ministers held a series of bilateral talks yesterday. They also held a joint meeting to prepare the Taba meeting and its agenda.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab UN Envoy Discusses Lockerbie, Nuclear Treaty

NC0802083495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, director of the Arab League Office at the United Nations, in New York, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] What has happened following developments in the Lockerbie crisis?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Perhaps you read some UK newspaper reports in London, indicating that Libya was not responsible and that there are some facts everyone knows concerning the issue.

In light of the recent reports, the Libyan ambassador is holding contacts with the UN secretary general. Contacts will also be held at the Arab League so that the Security Council might reconsider the sanctions against Libya.

In light of this new information it is inconceivable to continue these sanctions amid the strong doubts entertained even by those who are leveling the charges. We hope something good will emerge when the Security Council next meets to discuss renewing its sanctions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] And if Libya is really proven not to be responsible?

[Abu-al-Nasr] It is established that Libya is not responsible, except in quarters occupied by some people who want to raise doubts. Libya has no responsibility over this issue. The law says the defendant is innocent unless proven guilty. Libya is certainly innocent. There will surely be no evidence against Libya.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Arab group led by Egypt has a position on weapons of mass destruction and on renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Could you clarify this stance?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The group and all the Arab countries hold the view that in considering renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in the coming months, as you know there is a proposal to renew it indefinitely... [pauses] When we are asked to join this treaty, everyone should be asked to do so, in other words every country in the Middle East, with Israel no exception.

So the Arab countries and Egypt are not against extending the treaty. Rather they support the treaty's extension and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons on the condition that this applies to everyone equally. What is applied to the Arab countries should also apply to Israel. There should be conditions guaranteeing the Arab countries that Israel will join the treaty and place its nuclear capabilities under internationally known control and supervision. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 31 Jan

NC0302173995

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 31 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Religious Dialogue Conference To Be Held in Egypt
2. Chechen Students Enroll at al-Azhar
3. Egyptian Embassies Praise Role of Preachers
4. Writer Urges Enlightened Handling of Extremists
5. Ulemas, Preachers Leave for Abroad To Officiate at Ramadan Rites
6. Writer Urges U.S. To Halt Aid to Israel
7. Writer Says Indian Muslims Will Not Vote for Ruling Party

In view of the advent of the fasting month of Ramadan on 1 February, this issue of 'AQIDATI is full of reportage on Ramadan rites, fasting, and true Islamic traditions during this holy month, in addition to other articles.

RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN EGYPT

A 200-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 notes Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub's statement that it has been decided to hold the next religious dialogue conference in Egypt this summer. The al-Azhar and the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs will coordinate the proceedings of the conference. Mahjub says that the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs committees will intensify their efforts this year to enlighten

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Muslims about true Islam not only in Egypt but also throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds. Mahjub says that one of the aims of the religions dialogue conference is to show that Islam does not conflict with other religions and their followers.

CHECHEN STUDENTS ENROLL AT AL-AZHAR

An 80-word report on the same page says that 20 students arrived in Cairo from Chechnya to enroll at al-Azhar Mosque. The students, who said that some of them walked most of the way, said that the situation in Chechnya is "promising" in view of the deep Islamic faith the Chechen fighters have.

EGYPTIAN EMBASSIES PRAISE ROLE OF PREACHERS

A 100-word report on the same page says that many Egyptian embassies abroad sent cables to the Awqaf Ministry Foreign Relations Department praising the great role being played by the prayer leaders and preachers dispatched to these countries. The embassies called on the ministry to send more prayer leaders and preachers in view of their outstanding role in propagating Islam, highlighting Egypt's name, and serving Islam and Muslims.

WRITER URGES ENLIGHTENED HANDLING OF EXTREMISTS

In his regular 700-word column "Islamic Views" on page 7, Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah discusses the phenomenon of extremism in general and focuses on religious extremism. He says that extremism denotes a departure from the "moderation" of Islam. He argues that extremism is not a result of economic or social problems, as certain parties claim, because it existed in all societies throughout the ages. Stridency of modern extremism, he argues, emerged as a result of "repression" against the Islamic movements. He says that extremism mirrors "wrath, rejection and protest of the excesses that went beyond limits in handling Islam and the fundamentalists." He maintains that Western and local media exaggerated the phenomenon to "distort the image of the Islamic awakening." He maintains that it is the duty of several parties to handle this phenomenon. He argues that extreme secularists should stop their "provocation" of the fundamentalists' aspirations and those who resort to repression in handling this phenomenon should realize that repression is "one of the most important causes of extremism." The moderate side in the Islamic trend should strive patiently and persistently to "rationalize and guide" the angry fundamentalists to preserve these youths' potential and emphasize a reformative educational course to bring about the cherished Islamic transformation.

ULEMAS, PREACHERS LEAVE FOR ABROAD TO OFFICIATE AT RAMADAN RITES

Muhammad al-Abnudi, in a 1,000-word account on page 17, notes that 300 Egyptian preachers and ulemas have left for some 60 countries to officiate at religious rites during the fasting month of Ramadan. Stressing that these ulemas are Egypt's ambassadors abroad, he says that they serve the Islamic call and Muslims abroad. He cites remarks by some of these ulemas before their departure. Muhammad Zayid, an Awqaf Ministry official, says he was chosen to go to Chicago because he speaks English. He says his main task is to preach true Islam among Muslims and correct the wrong ideas that non-Muslims have about Islam. Shaykh Muhammad Ahmad, who is going to New Jersey, says that Muslims in the United States are in dire need of explaining the true picture of Islam and clearing its image of erroneous notions marring it as a result of acts of terror by individuals who claim to belong to Islam. He says he will focus on defining extremists and terrorists and Islam's stance on violence and terrorism. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah, who is going to Russia, says his mission is to share with Muslims there their ordeals and to strive to mobilize Muslim public opinion against communism and secularism which plot against Islam and Muslims. Shaykh al-Shuhaymi says his main task in the United Arab Emirates is to correct wrong religious rulings which spawn extremism and generate confusion among Muslims. Shaykh 'Abdallah says he is going to Tashkent and will focus on the Muslims' ordeal in that country and stress how God has rid them of communism and its shackles because of their adherence to Islam.

WRITER URGES U.S. TO HALT AID TO ISRAEL

In a 300-word column entitled "Other Steps" on page 20, 'Adil Dayf claims that the U.S. Administration has recently realized that it encourages terrorism and subversion in the world by encouraging organizations and individuals seeking to harm people. Since the U.S. Administration took the right step on the right direction, he adds, there are other steps that it "must take" to uproot organized terrorism. Foremost of these steps, he argues, is "halting its financial and military aid" to Israel because this aid encourages it to kill Palestinians and derail the peace efforts. The U.S. Administration, he says, is "responsible for forcing Israel to dispose of its nuclear and chemical weapons." He demands that the U.S. Administration "rein in" Israel and its leaders who threaten to launch wars in the region. Washington must realize that terrorism is not an attribute of Islam but certain circles have an interest in associating this stigma with Islam.

WRITER CLAIMS INDIAN MUSLIMS WILL NOT VOTE FOR RULING PARTY

In a 500-word account on page 21, Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl says that all indications from New Delhi show that the 120 million population of India are bracing to deal "a blow of revenge" to the ruling Congress Party in the next parliamentary elections although they have traditionally voted for it. Indian Muslim analysts, he claims, believe that the Congress Party leader Narasimha Rao deceived the Muslims when he told them that he would not allow

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the Hindu extremists to demolish the Barbi Mosque, but later let them pull it down. The Indian Muslims also believe that the Congress Party government did not provide them with sufficient protection during the acts of violence that swept the country after the destruction of the mosque and left thousands of Muslim casualties. He notes that leaders of the Islamic groups met in Bombay and agreed to give their votes to any party but the Congress Party or the extremist Hindu parties.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 31 Jan

NC0402165095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 31 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Lawyers, Doctors Protest Campaign Against MB
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LAWYERS, DOCTORS PROTEST CAMPAIGN AGAINST MB

A 1,000-word report on page 1 by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi and Khalid Yunus reports various reactions to the government's campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood [MB]. The reporters say reaction to the government's campaign against the MB has intensified, that the Alexandria Lawyers Association and the Cairo Physicians Association have held massive conferences and hundreds of physicians staged a sit in to denounce that "ferocious onslaught."

The report says: "AL-SHA'B has obtained a document revealing a government plan to dominate professional organizations, beginning with the Engineers Union. The massive conference held by the Freedoms Committee of the Alexandria's Lawyers Association called for forming a unified national front comprised of all political forces and trends to face up to the ferocious attack on freedoms."

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn addressed the conference. He said freedom of expression can only be attained through free elections and "imprisonment will not dissuade us from a jihad for a better future for Egypt."

The report adds that the Physicians General Assembly in Cairo held a huge rally "last Friday," 27 January, to denounce the campaign of arrests among physicians.

LABOR PARTY DEPLORES 'WORSENING POLITICAL CLIMATE'

AL-SHA'B publishes on pages 1 and 6 a 500-word statement by the Labor Party's Political Bureau, deploring the "worsening political climate" because of the security authorities' "fabricated" charges and measures against opponents of the regime.

The latest of these measures, the statement says, was the arrest of leaders of professional associations affiliated with the MB, foremost of whom are Dr. 'Isam al-'Iryan and Dr. Ibrahim al-Za'farani.

The statement adds: "The purpose of such measures by the security authorities is to provoke the opposition and preoccupy it with marginal political issues and to deceive public opinion with these bogus cases in order to defame the opposition in anticipation of the forthcoming elections."

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH ISSUES REPORT ON EGYPT

Muhammad Bishari authors a 250-word report on page 1 on human rights violations in Egypt. He says the Human Rights Watch Organization has issued a report on human rights in Egypt entitled "Egypt: The Policy of Hostage-Taking and Intimidation by the Security Authorities." The report is quoted as saying: "Since 1992 Egypt has been experiencing political violence accompanied by increasing violation of human rights committed by the security authorities and armed Islamic groups." The report refers to the security agencies' regrettable measures of arresting and intimidating peaceful family members of the Islamic group members, including women and children. The author says Al-SHA'B will publish the text of the report next Friday, 3 February.

LABOR PARTY HOLDS CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH MB DETAINEES

A 200-word unattributed front-page report says the Labor Party held a conference on 28 January to show solidarity with 27 MB detainees and with political prisoners in general.

The report says the speakers called for releasing the MB political detainees, most prominent of whom are Dr. Ibrahim al-Za'farani and Dr. 'Isam al-'Iryan. It adds that the campaign is not confined to these two men but targets all honest nationalist forces. It is planned to arrest all influential forces before this year's legislative and professional elections.

The report adds: "The speakers noted the need to form a national front comprised of various political parties and forces. Their agenda should include unified participation in the elections."

WRITER ON MUBARAK NEW YORKER INTERVIEW, U.S. STAND ON ISLAM

AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn contributes a 2,200-word article on page 2 reacting to President

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Mubarak's interview with the NEW YORKER magazine about the Islamists in Egypt. The author criticizes Mubarak's remarks and analyzes the U.S. stand on Islam, citing the situation in Algeria, Yemen, and Bosnia.

LOW-KEY RECEPTION FOR BOSNIAN PRESIDENT CRITICIZED

Also on the same page, Chief Editor Husayn commends the characteristics of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and criticizes the Egyptian Government's low-key reception for him during his recent visit to Cairo. He notes the state-run newspapers' prominent coverage of the visit to Cairo by the American stars of the soap opera "The Bold and the Beautiful," whose statements received front-page coverage. Husayn goes on: "But the Bosnian hermit and struggler was surrounded with a strong cordon when he arrived. He did not appear on television or hold a news conference and was even unable to use the telephone. He must have yearned for the siege of Sarajevo, which must be less of a burden than Cairo's."

SUDANESE LEADERS VIEW TIES WITH EGYPT, RELIGION

A 1,700-word report from Khartoum by Tal'at Rumayh on page 3 cites remarks by Sudanese leaders, including 'Umar al-Bashir, on relations with Egypt and religion in Sudan in speeches to a visiting Egyptian party delegation led by Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri.

BOSNIAN AMBASSADOR INTERVIEWED ON WAR

Page 4 features an approximately 1,400-word interview with the Bosnian ambassador in Cairo on the military situation and fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Replying to a question, the ambassador says the Bosnian army enjoys "very, very high" morale. He adds that everyone in Bosnia-Herzegovina has come to realize that they are being killed for one reason, Islam. He says "anyone who used to be a Muslim in name only has embraced Islam again, as he has no choice but to return to Islam."

SCHOLAR ON YOUTHS' RELIGIOUSNESS, 'JEWS DESIGNS'

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahab Fayid, general secretary of Islamic religious societies, writes an 1,800-word article on page 5 on the state of Islam, with many youths turning toward religion.

He says that as young men turn to religion and begin to read the Koran, they are demanding that the Islamic shari'ah be the basis of the laws. But after all the necessary steps had been taken, he adds, the youths realized that the process had stopped because of "advice from abroad by the enemies of Islam, who do not believe in Islam and do not know of its justice and tolerance." He notes that a clash has begun between the authorities and those demanding the application of Islamic teachings. He says that the nation's wise people should have intervened and mediated between the two sides by opening a dialogue. He points out that the dispute would have been settled this way, but the authorities allowed it to escalate and resorted to force, thinking that they could preserve their stature." Fayid also claims that the Jews are afraid of the Muslim Brotherhood because they put them on trial during the war in Palestine.

MB LEADER ADDRESSES 'OPEN LETTER' TO MUBARAK

Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr publishes on page 5 a 1,700-word 'open letter' to the President Mubarak.

U.S. DECISION ON FREEZING ASSETS CRITICIZED

On page 8 AL-SHA'B runs a 1,000-word unattributed report criticizing "U.S. President Clinton's decision to ban 18 organizations, mostly Islamic organizations, and freeze their assets."

The report says the decision was "originally intended to confront the Palestinian Islamic forces, namely the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad movements." The report notes that the U.S. decision includes organizations and personalities outside the United States, which confirms that it was basically issued to help the Zionists.

The report adds that the decision will have "serious repercussions on Islamic organizations operating in the United States which are targeted by the decision."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Secretary Brown Discuss Economic Conditions

JN0702155295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met today with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown at Rashad al-Shawwa Cultural Center and the president's office in Gaza. Abu-'Ala', [Ahmad] Quray', minister of trade and industry, attended.

They discussed the Palestinian's economic conditions, especially in light of the military closure imposed on the National Authority areas. They also discussed the obstacles facing the peace process.

In a news conference held by President 'Arafat and Secretary Brown following their meeting, President 'Arafat thanked the U.S. secretary for visiting the Gaza Strip and expressed happiness over the visit. He said the visit is a nice gesture from President Bill Clinton and Secretary Brown. President 'Arafat added: The meeting underlines the United States' support for the Palestinian

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people, particularly in these very difficult circumstances with our destroyed infrastructure.

The president noted the U.S. pledges to help the National Authority on all economic, health, and educational levels to boost the peace process.

For his part, Brown voiced his personal appreciation for President 'Arafat's hospitality. He stressed that the United States is committed to the peace process and development. He said his meeting with President 'Arafat was constructive and fruitful. Brown added that renouncing violence will help maintain the peace process. He said he hoped there would be a growth in investment in building and housing activities that will benefit Gaza residents. Brown also noted his visit to Gaza one year ago.

The meeting was attended by Abu-'Ala', [Ahmad] Quray', minister of trade and industry; Zakariya al-Agha... [passage indistinct]

News Conference Reported

JN0702203195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown and the delegation accompanying him today. President 'Arafat welcomed Secretary Brown at the entrance of al-Shawwa Cultural Center where a meeting was being held among Palestinian and U.S. businessmen and the official delegation accompanying Secretary Brown.

After delivering a short speech welcoming the conferees, he and Mr. Brown left for the presidential office where they held a meeting that was attended by the Palestinian and U.S. delegations. The discussions dealt with bilateral trade and economic relations in light of the U.S. commitment to support the peace process in all its aspects.

Brown said the United States and President Clinton are committed to rendering the peace process a success. The discussions also dealt with Palestinian priorities, and the development and investment projects in the Palestinian Authority areas, how to encourage such projects, as well the laws and regulations that facilitate such activities. The two sides also discussed the industrial zones that will be established in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. President Yasir 'Arafat asked the U.S. secretary to convey his thanks and appreciation to President Clinton.

The Palestinian delegation comprised Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', minister of economy; Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance; Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, minister of housing; and Marwan Kanafani and Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's advisers.

At a joint news conference, President 'Arafat welcomed Brown and described him as a distinguished friend. He said: We need the assistance of our American friends to build our infrastructure. He recalled what President Clinton told him after signing the Declaration of Principles in Washington. President Clinton told him: Rest assured that we will help the Palestinian people. The president said that he is confident that through this cooperation and coordination, we can do much for our people and children. He stressed that this cooperation is very important, not only for us as Palestinians, but for the entire peace process. He said: Your presence here today is a push forward to this process.

In his turn, Secretary Brown thanked President 'Arafat for this warm welcome that he and the U.S. businessmen were accorded. He emphasized that the presence of these men with him confirms that we will establish a partnership to focus on investment in the private sector and the trade sector and to enhance the Palestinians standard of living and provide them with new job opportunities.

Brown noted that there are big challenges but that the opportunities for development and progress are big too. He said that there are many groups working in this direction, like the organization Builders for Peace, which comprises Jewish and Arab Americans. He explained that what is important is to achieve important results and move from the stage of dialogue and discussion to the stage of real work.

Secretary Brown said he admires the construction activities in Gaza. He said: I know it is restricted to building houses and this is not enough because much has to be done.

Secretary Brown spoke about his tour of the region and the meeting scheduled for tonight between the ministers of trade and industry from the National Authority, the United States, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. He said: This meeting is very important, particularly that it comes after the four-way Cairo summit. He announced that he will leave after this on a Gulf tour. He said: If we do not achieve progress in Taba on regional development, then it is difficult to announce that progress has been achieved in the entire region.

Secretary Brown said that people in the region look to improving their lives. He said: We will do all we can to bring about this change. He emphasized that this matter requires stability, which comes through economic development.

Secretary Brown told President 'Arafat: We want to carry out joint action between Palestinian and U.S. businessmen, and we must prepare an investment atmosphere in Gaza.

Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi made the following statement on the meeting: Our meeting with Secretary Brown focused on the U.S. role in pushing the peace process ahead and supporting economic development in the Palestinian territories, particularly the assistance to be given to encourage industrial and agricultural exports to the United States. President 'Arafat said the Palestinian Authority [PA] is committed to measures that

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secure stability, which helps economic development. President 'Arafat asked the secretary that the U.S. administration exert efforts to convince the other side to refrain from collective punishment and the measures that gravely harm the peace process.

The U.S. secretary said that his country is eager to exert its best efforts to push the peace process ahead, to achieve economic development in the Palestinian territories, and to expand trade exchange between the two sides. He said that the United States has given Palestinian products preferential treatment in entering the U.S. market. Secretary Brown promised that he will follow up with Congress on the issue of the certificates of origin and health certificates issued by establishments to facilitate the entry of these products into the United States. The secretary listened to a detailed report on the measures the Finance Ministry has taken to improve the tax affairs management and establish a Palestinian monetary authority.

Al-Nashashibi added: We asked the U.S. secretary to insist on the Israeli side to have it disburse the funds due to the Finance Ministry in the Palestinian Authority, funds which the Israeli authorities collect from the Palestinians.

For his part [Economy Minister] Ahmad Quray', who held a meeting with Secretary Brown in Ramallah yesterday to pave the way for today's meeting, said he and Secretary Brown reviewed Palestinian-U.S. trade relations and what the United States can do to support Palestinian trade. Quray' said that he asked for a special quota for some Palestinian products to be marketed in the United States, particularly clothes and shoes. He said that the nature of the joint Palestinian-U.S. labor force was discussed, particularly with respect to the U.S. investment establishments.

'Arafat To Push for Redeployment, Elections

NC0802104095 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Feb 8 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat will push Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to set dates for an army redeployment on the West Bank and elections when they meet Thursday [9 February], his spokesman told AFP.

"There must be clear dates for the start of withdrawal and elections," said Marwan Kanafani.

Under the 1993 autonomy agreement, the Israeli army was to redeploy outside built-up Palestinian areas on the West Bank by the eve of elections to a self-rule council.

But fearing for the security of 130,000 Jewish settlers, Israel has delayed negotiations on the pull-back which was supposed to have been completed by last July 13.

"The Thursday meeting will set down conditions, method and date and place to start (redeployment and elections), that is if there will be a serious response from the Israeli side," 'Arafat's spokesman said.

The Rabin-'Arafat meeting was announced after last week's Arab-Israeli summit in Cairo to rescue the flagging peace process.

Election talks, which had been held up since suicide bombers from Islamic Jihad killed 21 Israelis on January 22, resumed in Cairo on Tuesday.

Kanafani said many proposals on the ballot had been put forward, and would be discussed during the summit at the Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza.

In Cairo, Palestinian chief negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat said elections would be open to all Palestinians, including those hostile to the peace process.

Kanafani also said other sticking points in Israeli-Palestinian relations would be raised at the summit, including the army's crippling closure of Gaza and the West Bank since the bombing.

"The closure must be reviewed seriously and in a way which transcends the scope of security as this has only a short-term impact.

Kanafani urged Rabin to clarify his call for total separation from the Palestinian areas.

"I think the Israeli side should present it with all its details and real implications, if they want to discuss it."

But 'Arafat aide Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said a "political separation" was acceptable if it meant "an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Jericho Radio Reports 'Arafat AL-AHRAM Interview

JN0802090695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said: The serious problem we are facing lies in the continuation of the Israeli occupation. Hence, the Arab brothers should stand by our side in order to study the results and all that we have obtained and reached. In an interview with the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, published today, President Yasir 'Arafat called on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton to act quickly in order to rescue the entire peace process. Otherwise, he said, we will face a difficult situation not only on the Palestinian track, but also on the other Arab tracks. For more details here is a report by colleague Yusuf al-Qazzaz:

President Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Arab states to examine the outcome of the peace process with Israel. He also called on U.S. President Bill Clinton and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to act quickly in order to rescue the entire peace process.

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On last Thursday's [2 February] summit in Cairo with President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, he said: We expected this meeting to serve as a gateway toward resolving these complex problems and implementing what we agreed upon accurately and honestly in a manner that would serve the peace process. However, no progress whatsoever has thus far been made in this direction.

President 'Arafat hoped that his scheduled meeting with the Israeli prime minister in Cairo on Thursday [9 February] would advance the peace process so that no setback would occur in the entire process. He said some may attribute this delay in the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to security reasons. However, he said, I would like to say that security is not confined to one party; it is for both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. If there are extremists on the Palestinian side, there are, likewise, extremists on the Israeli side. President 'Arafat recalled the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron, in which a Jewish settler killed 29 Palestinians in February 1994. He said: We understand the Israeli need for security, but they have to understand our needs, especially those related to our rights, security, and future, led by the implementation of agreements.

Responding to a question on his position on the armed opposition that is aimed at toppling the Palestinian Authority and the Oslo agreement, President 'Arafat said: Delaying the implementation of the agreement gives these cards to the extremist forces as if there were harmony between the extremist Palestinian forces and the extremist Israeli forces; both do not want accord or peace. President 'Arafat said the Netanya operation took place within this context. He added that this is what Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, announced frankly in his first statement, in which he disclosed the dimensions of this plot. He stressed that dialogue has not stopped for a minute with the Palestinian organizations. He added: We in the National Authority encourage such dialogue among all Palestinian factions.

President 'Arafat said an agreement was reached with Israel on the participation of East Jerusalem Palestinians in the self-rule council elections. He added: I agree that there should be two polling posts for Jerusalem: A ballot box in front of the al-Aqsa Mosque and another in front of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. He said this was reached thanks to the efforts of President Husni Mubarak when he sent Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Israel for this purpose.

Regarding international aid, he said: It is regrettable that we received many promises from the donor states and the World Bank, but only a little has been fulfilled, especially since we are taking over responsibility in a homeland whose infrastructure was completely destroyed by occupation.

On the situation in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, President 'Arafat said: Let it be clear to all that the emergence of another Afghanistan in Palestine will not happen.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Peace Talks, Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

JN0702181295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Report by correspondent Shim'on Aran from the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A unique visit was paid today to the city of Jericho in the self-rule area by Nisim Zvili, secretary general of the Labor Party and Knesset member. He was the guest of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the official in charge of the information portfolio in the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

I asked Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh about the situation of the peace process, especially in the wake of the rise in terrorist actions. He replied:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh] This visit has great meaning for us. It shows that dialogue, and only dialogue, is the means to overcome the obstacles facing the political process. We believe that Zvili's visit to Jericho indicates that the process that has begun is a long process that requires effort and joint action. It also means that Jericho is a symbol of the first step in this process that we hope will end in successful results. We believe that there are great problems that should be tackled. There is the need to complete the agreement in all Palestinian territories, including redeployment and preparation for elections. There is a need for halting all forms of settlement activities immediately all over the territories. And there is a need to discuss security requirements and issues. These issues should be discussed on the basis of the agreements that we concluded. I think that the agreements include elements and bases that are enough to deal with all these issues.

[Aran] How Does 'Arafat intend to combat the parties that reject the peace process?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I think that the most important issue is that if we want to confront the delays in the peace process, and all action that sabotage this process, we must courageously continuing this political process. [end recording]

On the expected meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and chairman of the Palestinian Authority next Thursday, the Palestinian official in charge of information said:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] I think that Thursday's meeting has a special importance, particularly following the Cairo meeting. Most of the issues related to settlements, redeployment, elections, and security issues have been agreed to be discussed at the meeting between President 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin at Erez on Thursday. We hope that this meeting will result in substantial progress in tackling these issues because this will put an end to tension, and will create a chance to go ahead with the political process until the end. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Fatah Official Urges 'Alternative' to Oslo Accord

MM0702162095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah Central Committee member Sakhr Habash (Abu-Nizar) has urged all Palestinian forces to find an alternative to the Oslo accord, or at least to work to develop it in order to create a new situation.

Abu-Nizar, who has returned to Tunis from the autonomous area, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that "once these forces find an alternative to that accord, they will see in those dealing with the reality a supportive force." Abu-Nizar, who is in charge of the Fatah Ideological Mobilization Department, said that "Fatah has not laid down arms. Our options are still open. And we will continue to work against the Israeli occupation by all means, first and foremost the intifadah, armed struggle, and working to reduce the Palestinian areas directly controlled by the occupation army."

Abu-Nizar, who is opposed to the Oslo accord, pointed out that "by pooling the efforts of all the Palestinian forces—opposed to and supportive of the accord—new realities can be created away from any domestic clashes that squander Palestinian efforts."

Habash pointed out that "the Palestinians he met in Gaza can be divided into two groups: our people who lived under the occupation and the Palestinian revolution's forces and cadres which joined the declaration of principles. The first group is euphoric and believes that the occupation no longer exists. It thinks that it has made an achievement. This group thought that the invaders' departure was a prelude to building its national authority with institutions capable of moving toward establishing an independent Palestinian state. But many of them were disappointed as a result of the Israeli actions, which do not presage many positive results."

Abu-Nizar went on to say that the second group, namely those who have returned to the homeland to assume responsibility for security and stability, instead of the occupation army, are annoyed at their inability to meet the necessary requirements. Because they believe that the shortcomings in the accord, the unfair terms stipulated in it, Israeli evasions, and the donors' procrastination are all aimed at thwarting the National Authority's task—which has prompted many people to believe that what started as Gaza and Jericho First could end up as Gaza and Jericho First and Last.

On the Islamic Jihad's suicide operation in Bet Lid, which Israel used as an excuse to close the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, threatening to separate them completely from Israel, Abu-Nizar pointed out that "the separation decision which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced after the Bet Lid martyrdom operation is primarily a collective punishment for the Palestinian people. This is the meaning of the tyrannical separation.

"This separation also involves a political and economic separation between the Palestinian people and the Israelis, leading eventually to direct recognition of the Palestinian state."

Abu-Nizar warned that Israel's continued refusal to withdraw from the rest of the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, will cause the West Bank with all its forces to turn into a hell that will burn the ground under the Israeli occupiers' feet, hence eventually forcing them to depart, as happened in the Gaza Strip.

Abu-Nizar stressed that "Fatah, which was launched to achieve the aims of armed struggle and the people's revolution, agreed in one way or another to achieve these aims through peaceful means. But Israel's backtracking on its obligations as regards the peace process prompts the Palestinian revolution to exercise its natural right to step up armed struggle, spark off the intifadah, and close the road to the Arab and international opening-up which Israel is trying to achieve under the banner of peace."

Abu-Nizar said that Fatah has a distinct role at the present stage, since it represents the national safety ring for protecting and developing the plan that began with Gaza and Jericho to move toward building an independent Palestinian state. He renewed his call to all the forces opposed to, and supportive of, the declaration of principles agreement to unite their efforts to achieve the strategic aims and remove the Israeli occupation.

'Abd-al-Shafi Calls For Palestinian Unity

MM0302151295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p 10

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former chief delegate to the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, by Huda al-Husayni; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Husayni] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, said last Monday [30 January] that in the coming weeks his movement will carry out several operations similar to the Netanya operation. Where will that road lead?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It will lead nowhere. Because we now have the conviction that armed struggle is not going to solve the problem, nor will it achieve peace. But the intransigent Israeli position, continuing to claim all Palestinian territory and not recognizing the Palestinians' right to self-determination, is, in my view, indirectly responsible for the cycle of violence.

[Al-Husayni] There are people calling for suspending the negotiations with Israel because of its intransigence, at least as a temporary solution. What is your opinion?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is not a solution, even though I agree with such a position. Maybe the situation prompts suspending, not halting, the negotiations in order to enable the Palestinian side to review the process in the

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hope that a unified Palestinian position will be adopted to decide what should be done.

[Al-Husayni] How can a unified Palestinian position be adopted?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is the problem. I personally have for some time been calling for democracy to be exercised. In fact I always urge the leadership, represented in brother Yasir 'Arafat (head of the Palestinian Authority) and the opposition—George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, and others—to meet together. Members of governments that face national emergencies always meet—despite all the differences—to forge a national unity position.

[Al-Husayni] Is this appeal made through the "movement for democracy," for whose formation you have called?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, the movement I am calling for now is aimed at spreading and deepening democratic culture in Palestinian society. It is interested in the elections issue, because the Palestinian people are entitled to hold legislative elections as part of the right to self-determination. It is also a democratic movement that can objectively criticize the performance of the current National Authority.

[AL-Husayni] So the movement for democracy is an appeal to the Palestinian oppositionists who refuse to accept Hamas as their representative to join the Palestinian Authority.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I would like to point out that our representative is the PLO. We are currently concerned about the performance of the National Authority, whose authority is the PLO. We believe that the present performance lacks a great deal of democracy, and maybe the democratic movement can perform the duty of positive and objective criticism with a view to rectifying what should be rectified.

[Al-Husayni] Do you believe that 'Arafat will agree to the question of democracy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Democracy is a right which is not waiting for anyone's approval. The democratic movement is not seeking to harm anyone. It is a movement adopting a democratic line. So no one should feel any embarrassment.

[Al-Husayni] Some Palestinians abroad are demanding the removal of the present Palestinian Authority in Gaza and in particular the removal of Yasir 'Arafat from the leadership. Are such calls encountering any response in Gaza?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No. They are encountering no response. The call does not provide an alternative, namely, what is going to happen after that? Such a call would lead to Palestinian clashes, hence harming the situation as a whole. Maybe there are justifications for criticizing 'Arafat because of his autocratic and undemocratic policy, but that is not the right way to rectify the situation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you believe that, if the Palestinian-Israeli option fails now, Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and the extremists would win? And would the Jordanian-Israeli peace hold then?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually the peace question in the region cannot be divided. If a comprehensive peace is not achieved—that is, a Palestinian-Israeli peace, a Syrian-Israeli peace, and a Lebanese-Israeli peace—there will be no peace in the correct sense of the word. So no one can imagine how the situation would be like. But the probability—and this is serious—is that matters would move toward strife, toward destroying what has been built, and so on.

[Al-Husayni] That means that the extremists would win if peace collapses.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The extremists would win, and indeed the absence of peace would serve the extremists. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Some people say that 'Arafat is ostensibly condemning the actions of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the extremists, but secretly he is encouraging them, because he considers them essential for the Palestinians to obtain from Israel concessions he cannot obtain through the negotiations.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I cannot comment on that. However, I would like to reemphasize what I said earlier. Namely that the intransigent Israeli position, which actually violates the Oslo accord and the peace concept, entitles the Palestinian people to resort to all means, including armed struggle, to get rid of the occupation.

In the first place, Israel is in its current position by virtue of its military might, not through any legitimacy or law. The Israeli position in itself is an indirect call for the use of violence. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] We have noted that Israel has been committed to fulfilling its promises to Jordan, contrary to what it is doing with the Palestinians. Why?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Israel's main concern is to take possession of all Palestinian territory.

[Al-Husayni] Except Gaza.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. And the same applies to the Jordan issue. The areas from which Israel has withdrawn are small and insignificant. At any rate, Zionism is achieving its aims gradually. It has a specific strategy which we all know. We are no longer fooled by anything.

[Al-Husayni] And are you capable of resisting that strategy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that, if the Palestinian people unite and manage to adopt a unified position on a democratic basis—because democracy is the only foundation on which the position can be built—I am absolutely certain that the Palestinian people can benefit

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from it. And the Palestinian people can achieve a steadfastness vibrant with life in the occupied areas—which would force Israel to reconsider its strategy.

[Al-Husayni] Like, for example, avoiding carrying out bombing operations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The matter depends on various factors: If we achieve a unified Palestinian position, decisions will be made by this unified entity. In my view, this is one of the important considerations, namely that we achieve a steadfastness vibrant with life.

[Al-Husayni] And how can a steadfastness vibrant with life be achieved?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In the sense that we can build a Palestinian society on the ground—a society that is responsible for itself, united, and has a cultural identity. These are very important matters and would reflect a positive picture. Besides, the steadfast people are entitled to enjoy the rights other peoples enjoy—the right to self-determination, independence, and so on. Perhaps in the heat of the moment no one is willing to listen to this. But I say that there are no imminent solutions. We are faced with a situation which I say must be dealt with calmly and deliberately through a unified position. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] We noted that 'Arafat called Gaza "the autonomous capital," when we have been accustomed to hearing that Jerusalem is the Palestinians' capital. What does that mean?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I have not heard of that.

[Al-Husayni] He said it during a meeting with an envoy of the Iranian [opposition] organization Mojahedin-e Khalq, whom he invited to open an office for that organization in Gaza. 'Arafat said: "Gaza is the autonomous capital!"

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, [he said] the autonomous capital, and we consider the autonomy temporary. But the capital of the Palestinian state is east Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] But there is talk in Israel about a greater Jerusalem that will never be relinquished.

['Abd-al-Shafi] If Israel continues to insist on that, there will be no peace.

[Al-Husayni] What if peace agreements are concluded between other Arab states and Israel, and the Palestinian situation remains as it stands?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually I say that the peace has to be comprehensive. This is why I consider the Syrian position a good position in view of its adherence to its conditions. Failure to resolve the Palestinian issue would not be in the Arab's interests, nor would their enabling Israel to achieve its aim on Palestinian territory. Because Israel would become a power that imposes itself on the Arabs. I believe that the Arabs are aware of these matters.

[Al-Husayni] Do you believe it is necessary for the Palestinian Authority to initiate a serious dialogue with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in order to secure a solution to the tension in Gaza? And do you believe that the two organizations would halt their operations if Israel withdraws from the West Bank and halts settlement-building?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If Israel does those two things, the Palestinian masses would put pressure on Hamas and the Jihad to halt armed operations. Because the majority of the Palestinian people have clearly demonstrated their desire for a peace based on recognition of the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state.

[Al-Husayni] What about dialogue?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I consider it necessary. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you want to add something?

['Abd-al-Shafi] What I want to say is that the peace issue in the Middle East will continue to be extremely important. I am not at all satisfied with the world position—U.S. and European—on this issue. But before anything else I call on the Palestinians, wherever they are—to keep away from whatever divides them and stirs up problems, and to be aware of the importance of achieving a unified Palestinian position.

'Practical Translation' of Cairo Summit Results Urged

TA0702154495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Feb 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Positive Results Awaiting Implementation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the first-ever Arab-Israeli summit, held two days ago in Cairo, constitute one of the most prominent features of the peace process since it was launched more than three years ago. They also constitute an attempt to save the peace process which had reached a stalemate.

The final communique, which summed up the results of the summit, affirmed the need to continue the peace process with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just peace. It also affirmed the commitment of the parties participating in the summit to all the agreements that have been reached so far, their respect for the agreements in letter and spirit, and their determination to implement them. This inclination is important and distinct, particularly at this time when doubts about Israel's respect for the agreements that it signed, especially with the Palestinian side, have increased and after it became apparent that the peace process is facing a real impasse and is about to be diverted from the goals originally set for it.

If reaffirming commitment to the peace process and respecting the agreements was an important factor in this summit, no less important is what was agreed on to translate this commitment into practical steps, including the

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upcoming meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister, the expected meeting between the four parties' foreign ministers, and the agreement in principle to convene similar summits when necessary.

Naturally, the most important achievement will be the practical translation of what was agreed on into steps that actually advance the peace process and render the reality of progress stronger than all the elements of frustration and the accumulated obstacles. Such a practical translation is necessary and important today when doubts have arisen about the readiness and ability to implement agreements.

Only in this way can the peace process regain its credibility and the region's peoples, especially the Palestinian people who are suffering and losing the most from the current situation, feel the fruits of the peace efforts and be hopeful of changing the situation to the benefit of everyone. At that time they will be certain that the peace option is the most preferable for emerging from the cycles of violence and tension.

After the achievement of an important step in the right direction toward the realization of the peace process' goals, we hope that this step will be followed by serious and necessary steps aimed at maintaining the momentum of the peace process. We also hope that the peacemaking intentions and wishes will be translated into a reality that will benefit all those interested in the security and stability of this region and in a just and comprehensive peace within it.

Cairo Summit Seen as Putting New Pressure on 'Arafat

MM0702163895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p11

[Editorial: "The Cairo Summit and Its Surgical Prescription for Uprooting Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cairo quadripartite summit has condemned the "terrorism" used by some extremist Islamic groups against Israeli and non-Israeli targets to foil the current peace process, hinting at the recent suicide operations carried out by young men from the occupied territory in Tel Aviv, al-Khudayrah, Netanya, and Afula.

That condemnation was expected because it was the main aim of the summit and the main reason for the participation of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in such a summit for the first time along with President Husni Mubarak, President Yasir 'Arafat, and King Husayn of Jordan.

Perhaps Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who paved the way for the summit with a visit to Cairo two days ago, was more frank when he said that it would be a summit for combating terrorism, reshaping the region, and forming a peace alliance. In other words, the four parties will pool their efforts to fight the extremist Islamic groups which do not blend in with the prevailing peace atmosphere in the region.

So, all kinds of pressures will be brought to bear on the Palestinian president to wage a new bloody battle against the Islamic opposition factions in the autonomy regions of the Gaza Strip and Jericho from which suicide bombers infiltrate across the green line to carry out their suicide operations. The Israelis are not convinced that his recent arrest campaign against members and leaders of these groups was useful and serious. They believe that he can prevent the suicide cells from carrying out their operations and make early arrests.

It is still not known what price the Palestinian Authority and its leader would get if they did what Israel and the quadripartite summit requested. That price might be the release of about 6,000 Palestinian detainees or it might the lifting of the current closure of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank allowing 60,000 workers to return to work in areas within the green line.

What is certain is that President 'Arafat would want much more than that to risk opening a battle with the extremist opposition. It would be illogical for him to do that while the Israeli authorities continue to beef up the settlements, build 7,000 new residential units in occupied Jerusalem, and keep their forces in the West Bank in open defiance of the Oslo agreement provisions.

If the Israelis see the recent suicide operations against military personnel as some kind of terrorism, the Palestinians do not, insisting that they have a legitimate right to fight a colonial expansionist occupation trying to swallow up their land and obliterate their identity.

The expansion of the settlements and the confiscation of land by extremist Zionist groups in Jerusalem and near Bethlelem and other West Bank cities are the worst kind of terorism, much more dangerous psychologically and politically than the suicide operations in the heart of Tel Aviv or elsewhere.

At the Ertz crossing two weeks ago, Rabin promised President 'Arafat that he would freeze settlement in the occupied West Bank but he did not keep his promise and only two days ago he decided to give the green light for the building of an entire Jewish quarter in the occupied East Jerusalem. We do not know if his promises in Cairo will meet the same fate. The entire peace process needs rectification, otherwise it will continue to go round in a vicious circle. We do not believe that decisions and goodwill alone can save it and restore Palestinian and Arab confidence in it. The Palestinians want peace. Over 80 percent of them supported the Oslo agreement when it was signed but that support diminished when they realized that their conditions got worse in the past months and that nothing has changed significantly because the Israelis refuse to make real concessions that would prove the opposite.

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DFLP's Hawatimah: Resistance To Continue

JN0702154295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1236 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hawatimah] The Red Star Battalions, the military wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], enjoys complete independence with respect to its tasks and actions to pursue armed struggle against the occupation forces and the rabble of settlers. It has absolutely nothing to do with the political, popular, or professional organizations in the Gaza Strip or in the West Bank. It is directly linked to its military leadership in the occupied territories and its military leadership abroad.

This operation targeted Israeli military groups, which exceeded bounds and entered the self-rule areas by themselves. Even 'Arafat's police officers such as Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah and Colonel Sa'ib al-'Ajiz denounced on Israeli television yesterday the armed guards which accompanied the convoy into the self-rule areas, and viewed this as an aggression on the self-rule areas. Further evidence is that the 'Arafatist-Israeli liaison committee yesterday met and decided that these armed groups should not enter the self-rule areas. They should offload their cargo at the joint border point where the 'Arafat groups would transport what they want. We say that military operations against the occupation and its forces and the gangs of settlers will stop only when the occupation leaves, the settlements are dismantled, and borders are agreed upon in comprehensive negotiations. Only by starting comprehensive negotiations can the Oslo agreement be saved from its predicament.

[Salamah] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, in spite of this denunciation, the Palestinian police this morning arrested scores of DFLP cadres and members in the Gaza Strip. What is your stand on this arrest campaign by the Palestinian police?

[Hawatimah] The arrests by 'Arafat and his police are based on political concerns and for no other reason. Rabin brings pressure to bear on 'Arafat to have him ignite a civil war and intra-Palestinian seditions. He does this daily. The latest example on this, according to the information we have, is what took place at the four-way summit in Cairo. Rabin directly asked 'Arafat in the presence of Mubarak and King Husayn to ignite a civil war against the forces that oppose the Oslo agreement and support comprehensive peace and comprehensive negotiations by a leadership that is elected by our people in the occupied territories. 'Arafat carries this out for political reasons to tell Rabin when they meet at the Erez checkpoint: Here I have carried out what you have dictated.

The DFLP in the Gaza Strip has a central command which enjoys decision making powers in all its political, popular, and professional activities and has nothing to do with the military wing. The military wing, the Red Star Battalions, is linked to the outside. Instead of apologizing to the strugglers, 'Arafat and his police carry out arrests on political bases. This will not obstruct the course that seeks to cancel the Oslo agreement but will isolate it more and more and will further anger the entire Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

[Salamah] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, as you know, Israel imposed a closure on the self-rule areas and the other occupied Palestinian territories following the Netanya operation. Yesterday's operation, carried out by the DFLP military wing, prolongs the closure which harms Palestinian interests under the canopy of the current economic circumstances. Are you in the DFLP determined to pursue military operations in spite of the repercussions and impact this type of operations may have?

[Hawatimah] Frankly speaking, collective punishment was one of Rabin's skills when he was defense minister in the coalition government with Shamir. Since that time, Rabin has become famous for breaking the bones of Palestinians as all international televisions networks have shown. Thus, the policy of collective punishment based on imposing the closure and starvation to cow the Palestinian people and have them submit to the Oslo solutions is a consistent Rabin policy, not to mention the blowing up of houses, and indiscriminate mass arrests. All this is systematically taking place under various excuses.

The most important issue is that the Rabin government should be ready to move toward comprehensive peace negotiations on the basis of a comprehensive deal that will be crowned with the withdrawal of the forces of occupation, the dismantling of the settlements, the Palestinian people's exercising their right to self-determination, and the implementation of international resolution 194 on the refugees, in exchange for a full peace. This is the way to check the whirlpool of violence. Violence by the occupation and the settlers will only foster counter violence. Violence by the occupation necessarily brings about resistance. All other things are just excuses to which the Rabin government resorts.

DFLP Activist Detained in Gaza; Over 100 Arrested

TA0802093395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip are continuing to act against Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. This morning Palestinian policemen arrested 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hajj, a member of the DFLP's Central Committee, in the organization's offices in Gaza. Various documents were also confiscated.

Other DFLP activists were detained in Khan Yunus and Rafah. The number of persons detained so far exceeds 100. The arrests started after the attack on the Israeli tanker two days ago.

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Spokesman Comments on 'Arrest Campaign'

JN0702175795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid from the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police this afternoon stormed the headquarters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Gaza and arrested a number of DFLP activists, including Central Committee member 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Jayyab, Jawdat al-Suwirki, and a number of other leading figures.

The Palestinian police campaign—in which 60 DFLP activists were arrested—followed yesterday's attack at Nahal 'Oz junction in which an Israeli citizen was killed and another seriously wounded. The Palestinian police believe that the perpetrators were DFLP members from Gaza who oppose the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

We asked DFLP spokesman Ahmad Ibrahim about the arrest campaign:

[Begin recording] [Ibrahim] In fact, since the wee hours of the morning the Palestinian security agencies have arrested 65 people from various parts of Gaza Strip. At 1200, a force from the intelligence service stormed into the DFLP-affiliated studies center and arrested everyone inside, including Central Committee Member 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Jayyab, Jawdat al-Suwirki, and a number of leading figures of the DFLP in the Gaza Strip.

[Abu-Zayid] Do you think that yesterday's operation was the reason for the arrests?

[Ibrahim] There is no legal reason for arresting this large number of DFLP members. The DFLP has not claimed responsibility and we as a political body have nothing to do with the DFLP's military wing.

[Abu-Zayid] But the DFLP in Damascus claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack?

[Ibrahim] I told you that we have no connection to the DFLP military body. We are only a political and information body working in the Gaza Strip.

[Abu-Zayid] Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim, events such as those that took place yesterday in Gaza embarrass the Palestinian Authority and may push Israel into taking measures such as maintaining the security siege, which will in turn affect the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Ibrahim] We feel the suffering of our Palestinian people everywhere. Our goal is not to bother or burden our people. [end recording]

In a related development, the Palestinian police today continued to arrest a number of Islamic Jihad activists. The police interrogates them to see if they have any connection to the Bet Lid attack two weeks ago.

The Palestinian police intensified its presence along the roads on which Israeli vehicles travel, particularly in Gush Qatif area in order to prevent any attempt to attack Israeli cars or IDF troops.

Hamas Issues Statement, Urges 'Greater Confrontation'

JN0702200295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement in which it viewed as a good sacrifice the heroic Sidon operation carried out by the fedayeen of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and the heroic Bet Lid operation carried out by two members of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine who were martyred during the operation.

The statement hails our people's heroic confrontation of the conspiracies of the Zionist settlement and urges greater confrontation of the plans of the Zionist enemy. Hamas also called on the masses to stage a general strike on 15 Ramadan on the anniversary of the massacre of the Ibrahimi Mosque; to consider 16, 17, and 18 Ramadan as days of escalation against the Zionist soldiers and settlers; to go to the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Ibrahimi Mosque on 25 Ramadan in defiance of the Zionists' decisions; and to mark the international day of Jerusalem.

The movement also called on the masses to mark the night in which the Koran was revealed, especially in the Ibrahimi Mosque; to perform 'Id al-Fitr prayers; to visit the families of the martyrs and prisoners; and to help the poor and the needy on the first day of 'Id al-Fitr.

Police Detain Islamic Jihad Newspaper Editor

TA0802121395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the Palestinian Police raided a communications center in Gaza and detained an Islamic Jihad organ editor and seven of his workers. The man is 'Ala' al-Saftawi, editor of AL-ISTIQLAL.

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Algeria

Reportage on Crisis, Conference Proposals, Reactions

'Curtain Down' on Dialogue

MM0702134395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Feb 95 pp1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil in London and Nur-al-Din al-Furaydi in Brussels: "Algeria: Madani and Belhadj Taken Back to Prison"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Algerian authorities yesterday brought the curtain down on any possibility of a settlement of the Algerian crisis through dialogue with Islamic Salvation Front leaders Shaykh Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. They took them back to the prison from which they were moved last summer to the Jinan al-Mufti villa attached to the presidency.

Informed Algerian sources have told AL-HAYAH that the two shaykhs were sent back to prison after the authorities concluded that there was no point in keeping them under house arrest because "despite the authorities' efforts and initiatives toward them, they made no calls for calm or an end to violence." They added that the regime decided that "there is no point in maintaining the privileges they were getting at their place of residence. The two shaykhs had the right to meet or contact whoever they liked from Jinan al-Mufti." [passage omitted]

The sources declined to sspecify the place to which Madani and Belhadj were taken but they said that the reports that Shaykh Madani was going to have an operation were unfounded. The two shaykhs have probably been returned to the Blida military prison. [passage omitted]

FIS Leader on Hunger Strike

LD0702141195 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdelkader Hachani, one of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has reportedly been on hunger strike since last Thursday in order to demand a trial, according to one of his lawyers. His trial has just been postponed.

New Meeting in Morocco Planned

LD0702160195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Francois Mitterrand's proposal for a European conference on Algeria appears to be stillborn; nevertheless, attempts at destabilization and interference in Algerian affairs do not seem to have stopped. It seems Rabat has been chosen as the location for the Sant'Egidio-3 meeting, according to several diplomatic sources. The signatories of the Rome document are to meet 3 March, on the fringes of [Morocco's] Throne Day activities.

If so, one question needs to be asked: Why choose the Moroccan capital, and why the shroud of secrecy around the organization of this meeting? Political observers note that these maneuvers confirm the Algerian government spokesman's declarations concerning the existence of foreign parties behind the Rome meeting, and that certain forces are taking advantage of these parties, which have become pawns in the hands of foreign plotters and paymasters.

IMF Chief Concerned About Situation

LD0702150295 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria—IMF Chief Michel Camdessus spoke in "Afrique Economie," our daily economic program. Frederique Genot reports:

[Genot] Yes. On his visit to Paris, the IMF director-general said he is concerned by the Algerian situation. Michel Camdessus spoke to Norbert Navajo:

[Begin Camdessus recording] I am extremely concerned by the evolution of the political situation, the repeated killings, and the slow progress toward a solution, but this is a subject over which the Monetary Fund does not have any hold and on which it must not take a position.

I can see, however, that these continuing tensions can be fatal to the success of our program since a program such as the one we are implementing has a meaning only if private investors are assured of the stability of the financial situation. In Algeria we are in a frustrating situation where we are carrying out financial stabilization without investments being able to take place for political reasons. [end recording]

[Genot] That was Michel Camdessus. The least we can say, Norbert Navajo, is that the IMF's position on Algeria has changed over the last three months.

[Navajo] That is right. Michel Camdessus expressed his optimism about this country in Madrid last October. The IMF was satisfied because, after years of prevarication, Algiers agreed last year to devalue the dinar and to reschedule its debt.

As you have just heard, the Fund's director-general is now less enthusiastic, not because Algeria does not respect the agreement it reached last year with the IMF, but because international investors are not following suit. For them, Algeria remains a country with a high political risk. They do not feel that the Algerian authorities have the situation under control, and this is the paradox; although Algeria is one of the IMF's best students, although it follows its economic program to the

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letter, repeated killings obviously cannot make it possible to restore the necessary trust for investments in Algeria.

RCD Leader Condemns Observers' Stance

LD0702204995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to the newspaper THE GUARDIAN, Mr. Said Sadi, the leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] said that observers rush to condemn barbaric actions when considering the issue of fundamentalism in Israel, Egypt, and other states, but when the fundamentalists slaughter and kidnap people or carry out arson attacks in Algeria, the same observers always find excuses regarding the identity of perpetrators. They consider that the use of booby-trapped cars complies with the logic of fundamentalism, which tries to increase its bloody operations in order to be able to terrorize citizens. Other operations are considered to be likely, and this makes political moves difficult. The main reason for the bloody nature of the crisis is attributed to the use of religion by the dissolved party [the Islamic Salvation Front - FIS] and the National Liberation Front.

With regard to his call for resistance, Mr. Said Sadi said there is a need to restore the spirit of solidarity among citizens.

RCD Leader Criticizes Mitterand Proposal

BR0702161595 Brussels LE SOIR in French 7 Feb 95 p 2

[Interview with Said Sadi, general secretary of the Algerian, Union for Culture and Democracy, by Hadji Khedoud in Algiers; date not given: "About President Mitterrand's Proposal for a European Conference on Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khedoud] What do you think of the Elysee's recent proposal to organize a peace conference under the aegis of the European Union?

[Sadi] The impromptu statement by President Mitterrand even surprised the Matignon, which was caught unaware by this initiative. The Algerian Government has of course expressed its anger at the unacceptable foreign interference. These are the statements of an outgoing president who is seeking to appear as an architect of peace in Algeria. A way of ensuring his place in the history books. We should remember that Mitterrand was interior minister during the Algerian War. It is he who came up with the sadly famous comment that "the only answer to revolt is war."

Others believe more prosaically that Mitterrand has set a trap for the right by reviving the thorny debate on Algeria in the run up to the elections. It is a way of giving the far right something to hang themselves with.

But the proposal does not hold up, and for three reasons. First of all, the peace treaty drawn up by a section of the opposition—the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], FLN [National Liberation Front], and the FFS [Socialist Forces Front]—is not a consensus text, but a compilation of several contradictory statements which are overwhelmingly rejected by the Algerian people.

The Rome peace plan is above all a political hoax which offers no alternative. It is the declaration of one group to another. Also, the political leaders present in Rome, namely former President Ahmed Ben Bella, Mehri for the FLN, and Ait Ahmed for the FFS, represent a cocktail of the Algerian failure. These characters, who have been detested for the past thirty years, are now seeking refuge behind the capacity of the armed Islamic groups to do damage, believing that in so doing they are bringing pressure to bear on the authorities to move in the direction they would like.

Second, the Algerians refuse to accept all the international media talk of the FIS fundamentalists now being the promoters of peace after having declared war on the whole of Algerian society.

Finally, and third, the Rome agreement is a veritable declaration of war which is going to further radicalize the armed Islamic movement. In fact, Rome has served to rehabilitate the FIS on the international stage. There are in fact two winners: the government and the FIS. Even if they are totally discredited as a party in Algeria. I tell you that the victims of the terrorism are principally people in the disadvantaged sections of the population

A Candidate on Three Conditions

[Khedoud] Finally, is it fundamentalism or the lack of social justice which is at the root of the terrorism?

[Said] I do not adhere to this view that it is widespread unemployment and poverty which produce terrorism. There are terrorists for the simple reason that fundamentalism has assumed responsibility for human misery. Nature abhors a vacuum.

[Khedoud] The Algerian Government is in the process of actively preparing for next July's presidential elections. Would you stand?

[Said] The signs are that this election could well be one huge hoax, an attempt by the regime to get out of a difficult situation. I would be a candidate in this election on three conditions, and even then I still have serious reservations regarding guarantees given by this regime.

First of all, there must be no FIS fundamentalist candidate for the presidency. Second, we need a competent and integrated administration in order to ensure that there is no vote rigging on such an important vote. Third, citizens must be able to vote in total security, which is virtually nonexistent at present. What we need now is a joint candidate representing all the forces of democracy in order not to leave the government standing alone.

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[Khedoud] Can the Army defeat the armed Islamic uprising by next July?

[Said] We are going about it in the wrong way. We are told that the principal problem facing the country is terrorism. Without trying to neutralize the source of this violence which is of course fundamentalism. Specifically, on the ground, this means we are hunting down the young unemployed in disadvantaged neighborhoods which are in the hands of the fundamentalists, while the two FIS leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, are installed in a luxury state residence after having called for a national insurrection.

The government has not adopted a resolute stance toward religious extremism. This is a thinly-veiled way of saying: "I am for fundamentalism, but I do not want its immediate consequence, which is terrorism." That seems rather grotesque to me. As long as we cultivate the illusion that religious fundamentalism is manageable and unavoidable in our society, the Army will be unable to finally neutralize the armed groups. We also need genuine economic reforms.

Mehri Expounds FLN Stance on Crisis

MM0702153495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 95 p4

[Interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Front, by Randah Taqiyy al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Taqiyy al-Din] What would you say about the explosion that took place in Algiers early last week? Do you think it is the work of the Islamist extremists?

[Mehri] Our position vis-a-vis this incident and all manifestations of political violence is that we reject them as we reject the use of violence as a political means.

The reality we are facing today is as follows: Violence exists in the arena. But the condemnation of violence is not the important thing. For we have been denouncing violence for three years and the political forces are daily being asked to denounce this violence. But what is actually required is for the political forces to make a political move and shoulder their political responsibility of finding a real way out and putting an end to violence. To confine ourselves to the condemnation and denunciation of violence is nothing but an evasion of responsibility. Our position on these events is that there is an urgent need to find a peaceful political way out of this crisis.

[Taqiyy al-Din] But the Algerian people are today undergoing a shock. They expect from people like you who had participated, along with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], in the Rome meeting to take a stand on the incident and determine if it was the work of the Islamists.

[Mehri] Firstly, no one can define who carried out any action that takes place. You in Lebanon are well aware of this fact. Indulgence in determining moral responsibilities will not lead to a solution.

We absolutely reject violence and strongly denounce it wherever it came from. We believe that the basic issue now and indeed the duty of all political forces is that they do their utmost to put an end to violence, and this is possible.

But to reject the holding of any dialogue with the Islamists on the ground that violence was still continuing is wrong. This is because it took place after dialogues were refused with the Islamists on the grounds that they are finished. Dialogue was rejected with them because they represent nothing and because they cannot control violence. Thus the rejection of a dialogue always causes a crisis and is justified by all sorts of excuses.

It is necessary, in our opinion, that a major political action should be embarked upon and a historic responsibility be shouldered for the convocation of a meeting of all the political forces with the regime in power so that a joint statement can be issued by all forces calling for the cessation of violence and the commencement of an effort to find a political solution to the country's problems.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Following the Rome meeting and the Algerian regime's rejection of its results, what action will you be taking now in Algeria?

[Mehri] The parties signatory to the National Contract must continue their work to bolster their solidarity and joint action. They should also call on the other political and popular forces to demand dialogue, for it is the only way out and there is no other.

[Taqiyy al-Din] There seems to be some contradiction here. For while you have called for the rejection and cessation of violence, the FIS, who participated with you in the meeting, is today a party to the current violence in Algeria between the regime and the Islamists.

[Mehri] We have proposed that all the parties should sit down together and study the question of the cessation of violence, giving it an absolute priority. In our opinion, it would be possible, following the first few meetings, to issue a joint statement or a call from all the parties jointly asking all those who possess any means of violence to silence it, and this is possible.

Why do we not do this? If it is because of our fear that we might not succeed, then let us talk and see whether such a meeting could succeed 100 percent or 80 percent. What is so frightening about all parties meeting together in an attempt to find a political way out which would then be put to the people instead of having this crisis and armed confrontation among the Algerians? What is so frightening about such a plan? Nothing at all. For this reason, we insist on saying that the way out, be it today, tomorrow or at any time whatsoever, can only be a

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political one and can only come through a dialogue among those who do not share the same opinion or the same political action.

[Taqiyy al-Din] It is being said that Anouar Haddam, who participated in the Rome meeting, does not represent all factions within the FIS, particularly the active ones in Algeria. What guarantees are there to ensure the success of what he has pledged to do?

[Mehri] Anouar Haddam was not the only one before us at the Rome meeting. For we had before us a delegation representing the whole of the FIS. For this reason, we are confident, because our deliberations were actually with this party [FIS].

[Taqiyy al-Din] Even with representatives from the armed movements?

[Mehri] I believe probably there were some of them. The entire political spectrum was there, as evidenced from the fact that the FIS legitimate and historical leaderships have all endorsed the Rome meeting. The last such endorsement came in a letter from Ali Belhadj in which he expressed support for the Rome accord. It suffices for us that the FIS leadership has supported the National Contract and expressed readiness to follow the road we have drawn up.

[Taqiyy al-Din] But the regime has now rejected this premise [the Rome accord]. You have said that the basis for resolving the issue rests in all of you meeting with the regime to find a political way out of the crisis. So what will you do now after the regime's rejection of this?

[Mehri] The situation will not change unless we ourselves change it. Change can only come through finding a way out of the policy of confrontation. The first step toward this lies in our meeting together. But if the confrontation were to continue, then every side will prepare itself for escalation and this is only logical. The choice is very clear to us. In all circumstances and whatever the causes and objectives, serious dialogue remains an urgent necessity.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Do you rely on any international pressures from the Western countries which supported the Rome meeting to persuade the regime to accept the dialogue?

[Mehri] External pressures, whatever they may be, act only as elements of enlightenment and help, but they are secondary. The basic things happen within the country. The regime constitutes an important part and side in this regard. We believe that the solution lies in the holding of discussions with all the sides including the regime and the FIS to find a way out.

[Taqiyy al-Din] There are some people who say that the [National] Liberation Front [FLN] party in Algeria was the one and only party responsible for the deterioration of the social and economic conditions in Algeria throughout its contemporary history years. Today, you are opposing the course taken by the regime. But the Algerian regime is a one-party regime, namely, the FLN which has ruled the country ever since independence.

[Mehri] The FLN party liberated the country, achieved its independence, and then worked for the building of the Algerian state politically on the basis of one-party rule and economically on the basis of a planned economy. This system of development and state building has had its positive aspects and was not totally negative.

One of its negative aspects, however, was that after some time, the limitations of one-party action became apparent. So we decided at a constitutional conference of the party to abandon the system of one-party rule and the state-directed economy and participated in giving the country a new constitution based on plurality of parties.

Under one-party rule, the party exercised part of the responsibility but not all of it. For there was a legislative function, a political function, and an executive function. The executive function was confined to the Army and the presidency of the state. The whole regime bears responsibilities for all the shortcomings that emerged.

But following the change, the regime has been trying today to continue with the logic of one-party rule, without elected assemblies and without the division of powers. On our part, we would like one-party rule to end because its logic and style have passed.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Will you continue with this strategy until the holding of general elections in Algeria? Will you participate in the elections, should they be held, or would you boycott them?

[Mehri] As far as we are concerned, the elections are supposed to mark the end of the crisis. But today, they seem to be the starting point for resolving the crisis. We do not agree with this opinion. The crisis has numerous causes and thus it must be resolved in all its aspects, so that the forthcoming elections would be genuine elections that would permit the people to choose their representatives to the elected assemblies and lead to the restoration of constitutional life to the country.

But if none of this takes place and security is not achieved, the elections will lead to nothing. This is because the previous legislative elections were canceled on the pretext that the voters were not free and were under moral pressures from one specific party, namely the FIS. But the pressures being brought to bear today exceed by far those of 1991. So, how can we talk about elections?

[Taqiyy al-Din] Do you feel that elections should follow the expanded dialogue?

[Mehri] To us, the solution must follow logical steps, as follows: Firstly an end must be put to the cycle of violence, to be followed by the adoption of measures to spread reassurance among citizens and heal the wounds of society with all its factions, and the reelection of all

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constitutional democratic institutions. In other words, the elections must lead to the establishment of a legislative power and an executive power. But to adopt one part of these institutions [the executive] and neglect the other [the legislative] would be tantamount to an evasion of the task of finding a solution to the problem.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did you meet with Robert Pelletreau, who was in Paris?

[Mehri] No, I was not aware that he was in Paris.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Do you have any contacts in Paris or in the United States with a view to insuring the fruition of the Sant' Egidio [Rome] meeting?

[Mehri] We are not the only signatories to the National Contract. The signatory parties are all agreed on the need to expound the Algerian crisis to all the outside parties.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Have you met with anyone from the French Foreign Ministry?

[Mehri] Not at all.

[Taqiyy al-Din] How will the situation continue in Algeria if the regime were to persist in keeping things as they are?

[Mehri] The continuation of things as they are will lead us to a graver danger, a greater complexity and a more expensive bill.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Do you see any solution?

[Mehri] It is difficult to predict a solution if there are no signs that the principal parties are moving toward a solution.

[Taqiyy al-Din] President of the Socialist Forces Front Hussein Ait Ahmed has told me that he has called for an international conference to resolve the crisis in Algeria or for an international conference for a solution [as published]. Do you support this idea?

[Mehri] Ait Ahmed has views which call for an Algerian solution supported by basic Algerian guarantees, and I support him in these views. He has also advocated that specific international parties should have the right to observe and follow up the implementation of any agreement the Algerians reach. I agree with him in this too.

A few days ago, the regime itself expressed its readiness to accept international observers during the elections. The matter then is not one of the internationalization of the Algerian question but only that the solution the Algerians achieve will be supervised by international parties.

[Taqiyy al-Din] There are some who say that it was the FLN that created the FIS. What do you say about this?

[Mehri] If we were to accept this, then we have to ask: Who founded the Islamic movement in Turkey, Pakistan, Iran and Palestine? I believe such naive and superficial analyses have been the cause of the complication of the crisis. The Islamic movement is a phenomenon that exists in the Islamic world. Dwarfing it in such a manner will be of no use. The claim that it was a terrorist phenomenon is also untrue. It is not true also to say that it is a mere obscurantist movement. It is a complex phenomenon faced by regimes that are undemocratic and isolated from the people.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Has the Rome accord been welcomed by some Arab countries?

[Mehri] I do not know if it was welcomed by the governments, but we have received a great deal of welcome from the peoples.

RCD, Hamas Leaders Favor Elections

LD0702225195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Still on the presidential elections, we note this evening the support expressed by HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] leader Mahfoud Nahna and Said Saadi, secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], for the election process.

Mahfoud Nahnah said to EL KHABAR that presidential elections could guarantee the return of legitimacy and stability in the country. In the Brussels evening daily LE SOIR, Said Saadi attacked the Sant' Egidio associates who are opposed to popular sovereignty through the ballot. The RCD secretary general condemned the interference of the former French interior minister [Francois Mitterrand] during the Algerian war.

Security Forces Kill 19 Criminals in Various Provinces

LD0702194495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services today announced the elimination of 19 criminals in a number of operations.

During a search operation carried out by the security forces in a hamlet in Ouled Aych, Blida, yesterday, two criminals in possession of an automatic pistol and a sawed-off shotgun were killed. In the same province, the security services yesterday killed three criminals in (Tabnint) hamlet in Benian, and recovered a Kalashnikov rifle, an automatic pistol, and a hunting rifle.

In Cheria, Skikda Province, a criminal in possession of a hunting rifle was killed last Friday.

While on a search mission on Sunday [5 February] in a place named (Taksif) in Jijel, the security services succeeded in killing two criminals, and recovered two hunting rifles and an automatic pistol. The security services also succeeded in killing a number of criminals in Batna, Algiers, Tlemcen, and Relizane, and recovered a quantity of automatic pistols and hunting rifles.

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Zeroual Receives Iraqi President's Personal Envoy

LD0802113995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of state, Liamine Zeroual, received at the presidency today Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil, Iraqi minister of transport and telecommunications and personal envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Mihoub Mihoubi, diplomatic adviser and official spokesman for the head of state's office.

Egypt

Musa: Damascus Declaration States Reject Israeli NPT Stand

NC0702221695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left for the Japanese capital, Tokyo, today on the first leg of a tour that will take him to the United States, Germany, and France, in addition to Japan.

In a predeparture statement, Musa said his visit to Japan is to prepare for President Husni Mubarak's official visit to that country in March. [passage omitted]

With respect to the Damascus Declaration countries' stand on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], 'Amr Musa said the Damascus Declaration countries very clearly expressed their rejection of the Israeli nuclear situation. They stressed that this stand will have great repercussions in the future. He said that whether or not a country wants to take a certain stand on signing the NPT is left up to the negotiations that will take place, particularly since there is still some time before the signing deadline. He said this issue will be presented to the new session of the Arab League Council.

The foreign minister concluded his statement saying that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that will be held tonight in Cairo will discuss the issue of Palestinian elections which is related to making progress on this track. He expressed his hope that these talks will be serious and that no stalling or postponement will take place.

Saudi Foreign Minister Backs Egypt's Stance

MM0702162895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn: "Sa'ud al-Faysal Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Unanimous Support for Egypt To Free Region From Mass-Destruction Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, following his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the need to support the Egyptian position aimed at freeing the Middle East region from mass-destruction weapons. Because this proposal is the main foundation for achieving a just peace and building trust among all states—which would lead to stability and safeguard world and regional peace and security.

Prince Sa'ud said that all Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, have supported this position, because it is one of the most important issues on which there is Arab consensus.

He pointed out that Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz is keen to ensure that this issue passes peacefully and that all parties in the Middle East region understand it, because it is bound to produce good results when the region is freed from mass-destruction weapons. [passage omitted]

Jailed 'Militants' Reportedly Plotted To Kill Mubarak

NC0702222995 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Feb 7 (AFP)—Four Moslem militants jailed for the assassination of former Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981 plotted from their cells to kill his successor Husni Mubarak, judicial officials said Tuesday [7 February].

The four are among 51 militants due to stand trial before military prosecutors for having reactivated the armed fundamentalist group al-Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the assassination of al-Sadat.

Judicial officials said a detailed plan for assassinations, including an attempt on the life of Mubarak, was found in the home of one of the four militants.

They were accused of reactivating al-Jihad under a new name—Tala'i' al-Fath (Vanguard of the Conquest).

The militants were named as Nabil al-Maghribi, serving a life term of hard labour, Anwar 'Ukasha and Muhammad al-Aswani, jailed for 17 and 32 years respectively, and 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Jaysh, who has been held in administrative custody for several months since completing his prison term for involvement in the killing of al-Sadat.

The man who killed al-Sadat at a military parade, Khalid al-Islambuli, was hanged in 1982.

The four accused of reactivating al-Jihad told investigators Tuesday that they had also planned a series of attacks on military judges, state prosecutors and strategic targets, including the interior and information ministries.

They said they had passed instructions to militants outside via the wives and sisters of al-Jihad members, who visited them in prison.

The militants were accused of receiving funds from abroad via an al-Jihad leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, living

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in Switzerland. He was sentenced to death in a major trial of militants in December 1992.

Some of the group of 51 militants are accused of the murder of a policeman and three civilians in an attack on a Cairo jewellery shop in February 1994.

One of the militants, Yasir Tawfiq 'Ali, is still on the run. He was sentenced to death in absentia for a failed attempt in 1993 to assassinate Egyptian Premier 'Atif Sidqi, in which one person died.

Authorities have arrested most members of Tala'i' al-Fath.

The group also claimed responsibility for an abortive assassination attempt on Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi in August 1993 which left five people dead.

The authorities have sentenced 23 Al-Jihad militants to death since Mubarak handed over trials of militants to military courts in September 1992.

Cabinet on Policy Against 'Terror,' Illegal Groups

NC0702200595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—In its meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today, the cabinet reviewed foreign developments and discussed the results of the recent four-way summit in Cairo and President Husni Mubarak's endeavors to remove the obstacles in the way of the peace process in general and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in particular.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who said that the cabinet also discussed Egypt's participation and role in the subsequent meetings and committees which will try to make progress in this regard. He said the cabinet discussed a report on the results of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers meeting and efforts being made to clear the Arab air.

Al-Sharif said the cabinet also reviewed the Saudi-Yemeni crisis, developments in Algeria, the 61st session of the OAU ministerial council, and the Somali crisis.

He said the joint higher Egyptian-Jordanian committee will hold its next session in Cairo between 22 and 25 March as agreed during the four-way summit.

The information minister said the cabinet also discussed a report by the interior minister offering a comprehensive evaluation of the domestic situation from the security point of view and the economic and social implications of this situation.

The report notes positive public reaction to the economic decisions issued by President Husni Mubarak to facilitate investment and open new job opportunities in Upper Egypt, and also favorable reaction to the decisive control of the market and the provision of commodities during the month of Ramadan.

The minister said the security report touched on attempts by some elements to cast doubts on the reform, economic and legislative policies. It referred to the security measures that have been taken against some elements that practice illegal political and public activity to shake the country's stability at a time when Egypt is working to maintain security and strike at the elements of violence and extremism.

Al-Sharif added that the security report discussed in detail the recent illegal practices that sought to escalate the activity of those elements to achieve illegitimate political gains, to support undeclared objectives, and to open secret internal and external contact channels to assist the factions of violence financially and morally under the pretext of social cohesion and protection of human rights.

The report said that the security measures are taken within the limits of the law and are determined by the competent judicial quarters.

The report reviewed the security confrontations that were initiated by the police services as part of their intensive efforts to capture those elements and pursue them to their hiding places. There were confrontations in sugar cane plantations and mountainous areas in al-Minya Governorate in which a number of fugitive terrorist leaders were killed and criminal elements were arrested. This was an effective blow despite the sacrifices made by policemen.

Safwat al-Sharif said that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi stressed that the security forces have clear instructions not to fire except when they find themselves under unavoidable attack. This proceeds from respect for the law and from willingness to arrest members of those groups to uncover all their schemes.

The interior minister expressed regret that some elements have received tendentious reports that harm the performance of the Egyptian institutions. He denied all information contained in those reports and said they are aimed at distorting facts and distracting people from the successes in the confrontation against extremist thought and the groups of violence. He said the reports are also aimed at distorting the democratic and economic progress that was achieved in Egypt and Egypt's central role in the region.

The cabinet stressed the need to continue to pursue the elements of violence, undermine their hideouts, and disclose their schemes firmly and without any leniency; to confront the illegal organizations whose political or organizational activity is banned by the law; and to take legal measures against them.

Arabs Urged To Invest in Palestinian Territories

NC0802102995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has urged Arab businessmen to invest in

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establishing economic projects in the liberated areas of Palestine so that unemployment will fall and Palestinian youths will not be forced to go to work in Israel, suffering humiliation and ill-treatment for poor wages.

In its editorial today, the paper says the success of the Palestinian self-rule authorities in Gaza and Jericho requires righting the deteriorating economic conditions by establishing and reforming the infrastructure and the utilities the Israeli occupation left in a very bad state. This is in addition to encouraging investment in various productive projects that would lower the high unemployment among Palestinian youths.

The paper notes that closing the border between the West Bank and Gaza territories and not allowing Palestinian workers to cross for work are the Israeli Government's favorite form of revenge against the Palestinian people whenever a Palestinian fedayeen attack takes place.

The paper says Israel has blocked the means of livelihood inside the occupied territories through arbitrary decisions. Israel has also created impediments, which have caused the Palestinians' economic conditions to deteriorate and forced the increasing number of unemployed workers in Gaza and the West Bank to rush to be employed as cheap labor in Israel.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls For Closer Ties With Tehran

LD0702181595 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli on Tuesday [7 February] called for exchange of expert delegations between Iran and Libya to identify each other's economic, industrial and commercial potentials.

Al-Qadhdhafi, who made the remark in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Libya Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri Shahrudi, termed as "united" Tehran-Tripoli stances in defending Muslim Palestinian and Chechen nations' rights.

"We are determined to defend revolutionary causes in the crusade war imposed on Muslim nations by the U.S. and certain Western countries," said the Libyan leader adding "we would not submit to bullying of those who wish to dominate the world."

Shahrudi in return voiced Tehran's readiness to cooperate with Tripoli in the field of commerce and underlined the need for execution of the provisions of Tehran-Tripoli joint economic commissions.

Shahrudi called as "good and active" bilateral relations and called for support for Muslims in Chechnya, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine.

JANA Notes West's 'Sudden' Interest in Fundamentalism

LD0702165295 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Nawar 7 [February], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The West is engaged in a sudden interest of what it calls fundamentalists and extremists in the Mediterranean, Africa and Asia.

Just two days ago President Mitterrand proposed the discussion of the situation in Algeria on the EU [European Union] foreign ministers 3=3 [as received], which was strongly denounced by Algeria as it is considered intervention in its internal affairs.

The American war minister also called for the confrontation of what he called fundamentalism in North Africa and the Mediterranean, saying that instabilities in this region are causing further social and security problems for Western Europe.

On the other hand the minister of development in Germany warned against the threat of fundamentalism which he alleges threatens Western Europe.

Observers are questioning the secret behind the sudden American interest in what they call the fundamentalist phenomenon in North Africa and the Mediterranean, despite their awareness of the fact that these phenomena are produced by America and fuelled constantly with the aim of destabilising some countries.

This sudden interest confirms the Western crusader interest in this issue which proves that a new aggressive conspiracy is being hatched and is being propagated for on all political and information levels in the West and that the international public opinion is being prepared for its consequences.

Morocco

Filali Continues Consultations on New Government

LD0402140395 Rabat MAP in English 1311 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Feb. 04 (MAP)—Moroccan Premier, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali carries on his consultations with leaders of political parties to form a new cabinet. He received in this regard Friday [3 February] successively Secretary General of the National Popular Movement (MNP, center-right Berber) Mahjoubi Aherdan and Secretary General of the Democrat National Party (PND, center-right) Mohamed Arsalane el Jadidi.

Filali held earlier in the week similar consultations namely with Secretary General of the Popular Movement (MP/center-right) Mohand Laensar, President of

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the National Rally of Independents (RNI/center) Ahmed Osman, President of the Constitutional Union (UC/liberal) Maati Bouabid.

King Hassan II dissolved Tuesday the cabinet and maintained Filali in his post as premier and foreign affairs and cooperation minister. The sovereign will appoint the other cabinet members at the proposal of Filali as stipulated by the constitution. Last October 14, King Hassan II had announced his decision to form an alternation cabinet gathering opposition parties and the parties they might ally with to reach a numeric majority in the parliament and had said the prime minister of this cabinet would be chosen from the opposition.

However, the three major opposition parties, namely the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), the Istiqlal Party (IP) and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP) voiced opposition to the presence of Driss Basri, state minister for the interior and information, within the alternation government.

King Hassan II announced last January 11 in an official release that he renounces, for the time being, to form an alternation government and that he will set up a new cabinet where the present parliamentary majority will predominate.

Sudan

Moves Under Way To Settle Problem With Uganda

EA0702215095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, has confirmed that there are contacts for dealing with existing differences between Sudan and Uganda peacefully and cordially. His Excellency announced at a regular Foreign Ministry meeting this morning that regular contacts are taking place with the aim of containing these differences, and developing the existing relations with neighboring states. He also confirmed that the government is keen to tackle any differences that might occur from time to time with neighboring states.

Mr. 'Umar Baridu referred to the visit which Amnesty International was scheduled to make to Sudan, pointing out that the campaign led by the organization in a number of European and African capitals with the aim of offending Sudan has stripped the organization of its credibility. His Excellency said: The organization has previously adopted a stand hostile to Sudan, and we will not allow it to visit Sudan so long as it lacks neutrality and objectivity, and so long as it is a tool used against Sudan.

Mr. Baridu welcomed the visit of associations, individuals, institutions, and officials to Sudan to acquaint themselves with the state of human rights. He said: We do not fear these visits because they will acquaint themselves with major achievements made in various fields in the country.

DUP Denies Rift With Ummah Party

MM0702170695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Al-Mirghani Denies Disagreements With Ummah Party"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Western diplomatic sources have warned about the dangerous conditions on the Sudanese-Ugandan border and the military escalation, which could develop into into skirmishes.

This warning came while military operations continue to escalate between government forces and the Garang movement. Fierce fighting took place in the border town of Nimule.

Meanwhile, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese opposition Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], has denied the existence of disputes or fundamental disagreements between his party and the Ummah Party, led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Al-Mirghani urged Sudanese opposition forces to rally around "the Asmara accord," which he described as a crystallization of all previous debates and agreements, with a view to finding a comprehensive solution to Sudan's crisis. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani said: "I would like to say that relations between the DUP and the Ummah Party are dominated now by the required understanding. It was merely a summer cloud which has now disappeared, not as reported and spread by the [National Islamic] Front's trumpets, namely that there are disputes and fundamental disagreements between the two parties. Unity is a duty and required between the two major parties. It is also required among all opposition factions, which should overcome transient differences. Because everyone's main aim is to topple that tyrannical regime, which weighs heavily on our proud people. We all have pledged not to spare any effort to topple the regime. And our awakening people in the country should pay no attention to what is circulated by the media services of the al-Bashir/al-Turabi regime about splits and disputes among opposition factions. Because their aim is to plant despair and frustration among the rising people with a view to pouncing upon them. Let everyone know that the hour of salvation is nearing and the signs of victory are approaching, God willing. So let us all unite and rally around the Asmara declaration in order to speed up our nation's salvation." [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Receives Iraqi Emissary, Saddam Message

EA0702214095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic,

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today received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of labor and social affairs and the Iraqi president's personal emissary, said after his meeting with the president that the message concerned the latest developments and relations with the UN Security Council, pointing out that Iraq has implemented all Security Council resolutions, particularly in regard to the recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty.

The Iraqi minister added that he briefed the president of the Republic on the stand of some states which support Iraq in the Security Council, like Russia, China, and France, besides briefing the president on current Iraqi political moves to break the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He expressed Iraq's appreciation of the stand of Sudan—its government and people—and its political and media support for Iraq in lifting the blockade. He said the president of the Republic explained to him that the blockade against Iraq is not justifiable. He confirmed Sudan's firm stand toward Iraq.

Tunisia

Agreement Signed To Allow Algerian Gas Transfer

LD0402185895 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An agreement on the transport of Algerian gas [to Italy via Tunisian territory] was signed at the Ministry of Industry today between Tunisia and Italy. [passage omitted]

The agreement will allow the Italian company of (?Inal) to be directly supplied with 4 billion cubic meters of natural gas from 1997 for the next 20 years. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Minister on Human Rights, Freedom of Expression

NC0802115095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 8 Feb (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has stated his country's eagerness to respect the human rights of the Kuwaiti citizen and foreign nationals working in Kuwait.

In a statement to MENA, he denied that any prisoner is jailed in Kuwait for expressing his opinion, noting that freedom of expression is guaranteed for everyone, providing Kuwaiti laws and norms are observed.

He said every recent Amnesty International report has praised Kuwait's defense of human rights.

Oman

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ethiopia

JN0802101395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 7 February (WAKH)—The Sultanate of Oman and Ethiopia have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the level of ambassadors as of today.

A joint statement issued today, and which was released by the Omani News Agency, said that relations between the two countries will be based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other. The statement expressed hope that these diplomatic relation will help promote relations of friendship and cooperation in the interest of the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

SPA Rejects Report of Yemeni Allegations on Talks

LD0702180195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 7 Feb—REUTERS news agency reported a responsible Yemeni source in Sanaa as saying that Yemen blames the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the lack of progress in the talks on solving the border dispute, that the talks have not made any progress thus far, and that the Yemeni side is caught in a vicious circle due to the intransigence of the Saudi side.

A responsible source told SPA that this statement has no basis of truth. The talks are proceeding in a friendly and positive atmosphere. Both sides have put forward some points, and there are issues still being debated in the same spirit. The Saudi side has not heard anything from their Yemeni brothers pointing to such a claim.

United Arab Emirates

President Congratulates Rafsanjani on National Day

JN0802101595 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the anniversary of his country's national day.

His Highness Vice President Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, prime minister and ruler of Dubai, has sent a similar cable of congratulations to his excellency the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yemen

Salih Receives Message From Saddam Husayn

JN0702185495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, Iraqi minister of higher education and scientific research and envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The minister conveyed a message to President Salih from his brother President Saddam Husayn dealing with fraternal bilateral relations and Arab issues and developments that concern our Arab nation.

The message also dealt with [words indistinct] the Iraqi people's great suffering as a result of the economic siege imposed on Iraq. It emphasizes that Iraq has implemented all UN resolutions relevant to the Gulf crisis.

The brother president emphasized our country's solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people in their suffering [words indistinct] the economic siege imposed on them.

The brother president asked the Iraqi envoy to convey his wishes to his brother President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Education 'Abduh 'Ali al- Qubati, and Iraqi ambassador to our country Dr. Muhsin Khalil.

'Some Improvement' Seen in U.S.-Yemeni Relations

MM0702151495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 95 pp1, 4

[Report by AL-HAYAH's Washington bureau and Mustafa Shihab in Riyadh: "U.S. 'Satisfaction' With Sanaa's Termination of Iraqi Experts Services"]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Arab diplomatic sources in Washington yesterday said that there has been some improvement in U.S.-Yemeni relations, particularly after the visit paid to the United States by Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryan.

The sources said that the U.S. Administration was satisfied with the way Sanaa handled the question of the Iraqi military advisers it used to train its pilots in the MiG-29 aircraft. They added that the Yemeni Government terminated their services when Washington expressed displeasure with their presence. They said that the step was received with satisfaction in Washington which might now supply Yemen with the spare parts it had requested for the F-5 aircraft still in service in its air force.

It should be recalled that al-Iryani left New York last Wednesday after a tour of U.S. cities including Washington and New York. The same sources said that his talks with U.S. officials in Washington covered Sudanese-Yemeni relations, especially after President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Sudan on the last day of last year. They added that the Yemeni foreign minister gave the Americans "assurances" that his country would not become another Sudan.

Yemen had used the help of some Iraqi military advisers to train its pilots on the MiG-29 aircraft it seized after the defeat of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] forces. One other damaged aircraft was also seized. The YSP was believed to have received these aircraft from Ukraine and the Maldives. Sanaa later leaked reports that it intended to purchase more MiG-29s from the Maldives.

What is certain is that the Yemeni Government is still receiving arms the YSP had contracted to purchase during the war and did not receive on time. An Arab diplomat says that the Yemeni Government is requesting these arms because all the contracts concluded by the YSP were in the name of "the Yemeni Defense Ministry." [passage omitted]

Opposition Front's al-Jifri Interviewed

MM0602140895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p4

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, leader of the Yemeni National Opposition Front "MAWJ," by 'Ali al-Ruzz in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Ruzz] What are the chances of the Arabs and the world recognizing you as opposition when nobody recognized you as a state?

[Al-Jifri] We are not external opposition. We are internal opposition and we only rely on internal opposition. If we get aid from others, that would be fine.

We did not subscribe to the past mistakes and, for the record, we had nothing to do with what happened. What we did was try to ward off the dangers. Our position in Aden stemmed from our commitment to an initiative we had made calling for a cease-fire and the formation of a government of national unity that would implement the Pledge and Accord Document, but (Yemeni President) 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih rejected the initiative. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ruzz] What are your priorities, now that you have laid down the organizational structure of MAWJ?

[Al-Jifri] 1. We will watch developments at home where the regime is rejected. By home I mean Yemen not the south. We are not secessionists. Our concentration on the south is due to its recent wound which needs treatment. The north is also wounded and requires other forms of treatment.

2. We will seek to project that rejection at internal, Arab, and international levels.

3. We will apply a peaceful secret method of activity because we are not terrorists or advocates of violence, not because we are afraid to resort to armed action. So long as peaceful secret means are available, we will carry them to the end.

[Al-Ruzz] And if peaceful means reach a dead end?

[Al-Jifri] All options would be considered. Popular rejection means instability and instability would be a message to the world that our interests and the interests of others would not be fulfilled.

We have started an enlightenment campaign in Yemen through leaflets, tapes, and video cassettes explaining everything: the causes of the war, the causes of the defeat, the causes of the withdrawal, MAWJ's aims, and the work required at home. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ruzz] Will the opposition focus on individuals?

[Al-Jifri] No, on the current regime. There is no personal hostility toward 'Ali Salih but we want the Pledge and Accord Document implemented. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ruzz] Why do you not go back?

[Al-Jifri] We are not allowed to. The mere mention of MAWJ would mean arrest and closure of publications, which is what happened to the newspaper AL-AYYAM.

[Al-Ruzz] If the Yemeni president allowed you and others to return and work at home, would you return?

[Al-Jifri] I would return. I fear nobody but God. That is because our struggle is at home. I and others would return. I speak for MAWJ. If the opposition movement is recognized and permitted to operate at home, I will be the first to return.

We, however, view the situation realistically. We have seen what happened to some of those who did return.

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Officer Qasim Thabit 'Uthman was tortured to death. Air Force officers are pursued and told: We cannot protect you from people who had lost some members of their families. Abu-Bakr al-Saqqaf, the most prominent intellectual in all Yemen and a university professor well known in the Arab world and internationally, expressed an opinion, so he was dismissed from the university. When he objected to the dismissal as being illegal, he and Writers Union Chairman Dr. Zayn al-Saqqaf were held, beaten up, and then released.

[Al-Ruzz] What are your conditions for returning?

[Al-Jifri] 1. Cancellation of the illegal decision issued by the attorney general against 16 of our leaders, because that decision was based on the law of the jungle and of the victor.

2. The regime should stop interfering in the affairs of the parties through the use of public funds and the state's security organ.

3. There should be freedom of publication and expression, and we should be able to express our views fully through legal, legitimate, and democratic means.

4. All those who had left, been pursued, or dismissed from their work should be allowed to return and should be reinstated.

5. The dismissal decisions should be revoked.

[Al-Ruzz] So, downfall of the regime is not a condition.

[Al-Jifri] That is my task later on. Advocating change for the better is a right of mine, and that would depend on my activity in the arena. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ruzz] Are you in daily contact with [former south Yemeni leader] 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

[Al-Jifri] We contact each other whenever we wish and when there is need. Al-Bid is one of Yemen's symbols.

[Al-Ruzz] Will he move out of Oman?

[Al-Jifri] There is nothing to prevent that.

[Al-Ruzz] Will that be soon?

[Al-Jifri] He could do so at any moment.

[Al-Ruzz] Before the end of the year?

[Al-Jifri] God willing, we, al-Bid, and everyone else will be back in the homeland before the end of the year.

[Al-Ruzz] How does MAWJ view the Saudi-Yemeni border issue?

[Al-Jifri] The Yemeni regime can only survive on crises. The internal crisis is now difficult because the people could erupt against it, so it created an external crisis.

We are against any tension with any fraternal Arab country. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ruzz] How would you describe your relations with former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad?

[Al-Jifri] 'Ali Nasir is a brother and a friend. I was pained by his position during the war, and I told him so. If he wished to join us, we would welcome him at any time and he would have his proper place with us. He is one of the country's symbols. But I do not believe that he would, because he wants to keep his accounts open with 'Ali Salih.

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Irbil Demonstrators Demand Return of Central Government

JN0702142795 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Feb. 7 (INA)—Massive demonstrations were staged in Irbil Province (northern Iraq) demanding the return of the central government to the Kurdistan Autonomy Region, Kurd eyewitnesses said.

The witnesses added that hundreds of innocent people were killed and houses and shops demolished as a result of the indiscriminate shelling between the rival hireling cliques of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani.

Paper Urges Kurds To 'Promote' Country's Unity

JN0702151295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has urged local groups and parties in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan to take the proper stand so that they may contribute toward defeating plots and creating the appropriate climate and circumstances for ending the abnormal situation there, away from suspicious influences.

In an editorial today entitled "The Required Stand," the paper highlights the Iraqi leadership's announcement that it is still willing to respond positively to any serious national initiative, and that its basic option is that of achieving a peaceful national solution. The pursuit of such a solution, the paper argues, would reflect a firm historic stand. The opportunity to pursue this solution, the paper adds, must be seized with a sound outlook that is not blurred by untruthfulness.

The paper calls for learning the lessons of the past few years so that the Kurds may opt for a national solutions that will end the painful incidents once and for all, promote Iraq's unity, and place on the shoulders of the conscientious Iraqi Kurds the responsibility of serving Iraq and its firm unity through persistent endeavors. This is the role those endowed with a sense of national responsibility are required to play, the paper maintains.

AL-'IRAQ concludes by saying that history will judge the acts of all at this critical and crucial phase. All those who wish to see Iraq strong and united. in which the fraternity of Arabs and Kurds may remain intact within the context of amity and common destiny, must work to restore stability to the region and put an end to the lawlessness and political and economic confusion prevailing there.

SAIRI Leader on Post-Saddam Alternative, Sanctions

NC0702161195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Husayn al-Bahbahani, from the Kuwaiti magazine AL-ULA, and 'Abd-al-Latif Muhammad al-Ashmar, from the Kuwaiti magazine AL-TALI'AH, have conducted a joint interview with His Eminence Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]. Following are the most important parts of the interview:

[Question] Most observers believe that you are the strongest candidate for the post-Saddam stage. Are you presenting yourself as an alternative?

[Answer] The main mission we are seeking is to bring down the regime and put an end to the tragic conditions. The alternative in the form of persons is not being raised in the opposition circles. I am one of those who have objected to having alternative persons. Yes, the alternative raised is one of a concept or a vision of what to have after Saddam, such as elections and elimination of sectarian and [word indistinct] discrimination, relations of good neighborliness, and mutual respect and equitable interests in relations with the international community. This is quite proper and necessary so that the people can know the aim of the change. There are two aspects: getting rid of the ruling clique and finding a stable regime capable of establishing justice. The talk about persons is premature and should be left to the people. I pledged to the people to stay with it. We in SAIRI have vowed that this Assembly should be one of salvation and not an alternative. The same should apply to the other opposition groups. They should aim to achieve the change.

[Question] We heard you say that the Iraqi regime will once again commit aggression if the sanctions are lifted.

[Answer] I say specifically that Saddam and his regime will resume their aggression if the sanctions are lifted. We want the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility by preventing the regime from repressing the people by implementing Resolution 688 and ensuring that it should not threaten its neighbors. What remains to be done is the responsibility of the Iraqi people. Yes, we did have an observation, namely that the United Nations imposed sanctions equally on both the regime and the people. That was a loophole and a mistake which the regime exploited to pressure other countries, especially Kuwait, in order to lift the sanctions.

Resistance Reportedly Kills Regime Authorities

NC0702161495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroic resistance fighters meted out just punishment to criminal Abu-Muwaffaq al-Dulaymi, the deputy officer in charge of intelligence in al-Qurnah district, al-Basrah Governorate, at the beginning of this month when he was leaving one of the regime's dens in the district.

At the end of January, another group of Islamic resistance fighters meted out just punishment to criminal Kamil Hassun Munati, one of the Ba'th Party's henchmen in Qada' al-Zubayr where he helped execute a number of innocent people and helped arrest dozens of young men who refused to enroll in the regime's army.

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Another group of heroic fighters punished criminal Salman Khalid Hammadi when it attacked his Land Cruiser jeep with an RPG-7, destroying the jeep and killing the criminal.

Another group also killed criminal Samir al-Maliki who was recently appointed by the regime as tribal leader of the Bani Malik clan after being granted the so-called medal of courage. He was killed in one of al-Qurnah's streets.

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Peres Says Peace Process in 'Dangerous State'

TA0802094095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 95 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Shlomo Shamir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in Washington yesterday that the government will complete the peace process and "we will win the elections." He said peace has already gone a long way and that he does not know of any political party that wants to return to Gaza. Nevertheless, contrary to the optimism he expressed publicly, Peres told a closed meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations [CPMAJO] that the peace process is in a "dangerous" state. He called on the presidents to become involved in promoting the process.

The minister used his meetings in Washington to attack the Likud. "Bibi's plan explains how to make peace in the Likud, and even there it was not received well," he said. "Negotiating with yourself is a fascinating idea," he added. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister held his meetings on Capitol Hill while Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu held a simultaneous series of talks there. Peres later said that several congressmen "raised their eyebrows over the phenomenon." Peres said that he does not recall a similar case where an opposition leader has organized meetings for himself while an official representative of the government is visiting Congress.

Peres sharply attacked Netanyahu's effort to undermine the decision to dispatch American soldiers to the Golan Heights. He said "the Government of Israel has not sent him to ask for soldiers and it is chutzpah to suggest things nobody asked for. It is a weird attempt to frighten America and American mothers with information about sending soldiers to the Golan as an outcome of negotiations which have not yet even begun."

Peres said he found a common language with Speaker Newt Gingrich on soliciting private and government funds for the Middle East.

In a small private meeting with the leaders of the CPMAJO, the foreign minister defined the state of the peace process as "dangerous" and urged the Jewish leaders to unite in mustering support for the peace process in the United States.

Peres made it clear to the Jewish leaders that "it is inconceivable that in critical times in the process, the U.S. Administration and the Jewish community receive the message that there is a split in the Jewish leadership" in its attitude toward the peace process.

Peres Cancels Far East Trip Due to 'Difficulties'

TA0802113795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has canceled his planned trip to the Far East later this month, apparently because of difficulties in the government and the peace process. Prime Minister Rabin is said to have asked Peres to be in the country when appointments are made for the interior and religious affairs ministries and for votes in the Knesset.

The foreign minister is due to meet in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher later today.

Tunisia To Open Interest Offices

LD0702211495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 2000 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Tunisia are to open interest offices in each other's countries some time next week. Although the actual decision was taken earlier at diplomatic level, only now have all the technical details been worked out. The interest offices are to operate out of the Belgian embassies in Israel and Tunisia.

Knesset Passes Bill on Jordan Treaty Implementation

TA0202100195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Knesset yesterday passed a bill implementing the peace treaty with Jordan, by 52 votes to 2.

Moledet MKs [Knesset Members] Rehav'am Ze'evi and Sha'ul Gutman were the only two MKs who opposed the bill, although Likud MK Mikha'el Eytan noted his dissatisfaction with the fact that land was handed over to the Jordanians before the bill passed second and third readings.

Labor, Likud, Meretz, Tzomet, YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], United Torah Judaism, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and the Democratic Arab Party all voted in favor; there were no SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MKs present.

The law formally anchors the treaty, but its main importance stems from it having set a precedent concerning the legal and legislative procedures for transfer of sovereign land.

During the discussion, Eytan proposed adding a clause which would state that "the law would be valid until the final arrangements had been made in the dispute between the Jews and Arabs in the Land of Israel."

Eventually, however, all reservations were dropped.

Labor MK Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, agreed that it would have been better to complete the legislation before land was transferred.

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But he asked the plenum to approve the law in order to finalize the amendments to the treaty by February 10 as promised.

He also called on the Jordanians to complete their legislation on time.

He praised the agreement with its land lease and exchange clause for farmers.

Education Ministry Officials Meet Syrian Counterparts

TA0302130795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Feb 95 p A1, A2

[Report by educational affairs correspondent Or Qashti]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first meeting of its kind between Israeli Education Ministry representatives and academics and their counterparts from Syria ended about a week ago in the United States. The meeting was initiated by two U.S. think tanks supported by the U.S. Administration. These research institutes organized meetings between Israeli and Syrian army officers and security personnel several months ago. The gathering was also attended by an academic from Iran and representatives from the Palestinian Authority [PA], Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Turkey. In total, some 15 people took part in the meeting.

The Israeli delegation included Professor Dani Bartal, head of the Education's Ministry's Unit for Democracy and Coexistence and a lecturer at Tel Aviv University's School of Education, and Aluf Hareven, head of the "Sikuy" [Chance] Association for the Promotion of Equality and Opportunities. Syria was represented by one of its senior Education Ministry officials.

The Israeli representatives noted the cooperation between the participants. Prof. Bartal said that the Syrian representative explained repeatedly that his country is prepared for full peace relations in all fields if Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights. The Israeli Education Ministry's Doron Shohat added that "channels for cooperation can be found with each of the states that attended the meeting."

The gathering dealt mainly with the issue of the image Jews and Arabs have of each other as reflected in the educational systems of each of the countries in the region. Prof. Bartal said that "the Jordanian representatives had the greatest reservations about cooperation with us, much more than the other countries. The Syrian representative kept reiterating that the secret to the solution of the conflict is held by Israel: readiness to return the Golan. Such a promise has not been made to President al-Asad, which therefore prevents any progress in the peace process. He expressed his confidence that if such a step were taken, Syria would be prepared for full peace relations."

According to Prof. Bartal, the Syrian delegate added that "the conflict can be resolved within minutes. The centralist regime in Syria permits changing the contents of schoolbooks quickly."

Bartal said the Iranian academic showed "a lot of openness and interest in what is happening in Israel. In fact, we learned from each other that the real picture beyond the enmity between Israel and Iran is much more complicated. I learned, for example, that the image of a Khomeynist fundamentalist and closed society does not conform with the reality the Iranians portray. That does not mean that there is complete freedom in Iran, but they appear to have more freedom than we think. The most readiness for cooperation was shown by the PA representatives and by Egypt."

As a long-term aim, proposals were raised for changes in curricula and textbooks. In the shorter term, ideas were exchanged on projects that can be implemented, such as exchange visits by school principals and teachers and by youth groups, and joint academic research projects to study stereotypes within each society.

Bartal said "we established a foundation and atmosphere from which we can go forward. These were the first sparks of academic cooperation between us, the Palestinians, and the Egyptians on the issue of stereotypes."

Shohat said that he suggested that "all the states in the region establish a permanent youth forum, which would convene every few months. All the regional leaders talk about acting for the sake of the next generation. Such a forum, therefore, can provide an answer to those leaders on how the peace process is viewed by the young." Another proposal was that the participants set up a committee to prepare a joint educational plan for all the states in the region.

Prof. Bartal also said that "one of the basic premises of the meeting was that, in addition to the real conflict between Israel and the Arab states, psychological stereotypes have been created, which are strongly reflected in the education systems. The question now is whether the education systems, which sometimes justified the conflict and the accompanying stereotypes—a phenomenon that suited the period of confrontation—should now be adapted to the era of peace."

He said: "We reached the conclusion that the education system is responsible for exaggerated, negative stereotypes on both the Israeli and the Arab sides. In the Israeli education system, the Arabs appears as a symbol of aggression and evil, although we are in an era of peaceful relations and dialogue with some of the Arab states. I also learned that the Syrian presentation of us is 'a mirror image.' In other words, the stereotype of the Jew in the Arab states is similar to the stereotype we hold of the Arabs: untrustworthy, aggressive, fanatical, and cruel."

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"I believe," he added, "that the participants left with the feeling that each society must undergo a change in order to alter the simplistic, negative, and one-sided image of the other side."

Commentary Advises Against Wasting Time on Syrian Talks

TA0802133295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 95 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Syria, Zilch"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The zigzagging in the long, boring, and virtually nonexisting negotiations with Syria continue. Once again they have made a few headlines. Those who feel the load is too heavy because of the pangs over the arrangement with the Palestinians should not be apprehensive. Nothing will come out of the Syrian issue in the near future. Even those who want a fast pace have no reason for regrets. Under the existing circumstances, this is best.

The evaluation that there is at present no chance of an understanding with al-Asad is based on firm foundations. Nobody in Jerusalem or Damascus is in any special hurry to become more flexible. We should add the assertion that any Israeli attempt to get out of the bind at this stage might even be damaging. The discussions with the PLO are reaching a decisive stage. Despite the leaks from the closed quadrilateral meeting in Cairo, the heart of the negotiations between Rabin and 'Arafat remains secret.

It is no coincidence that the deliberations on the completion of the interim arrangement are being conducted at the highest level, some as tete-a-tetes. Parallel to the talks, the new West Bank map is being drawn. When the detailed negotiations start, it will, of course, become clear that they cannot succeed without concessions on both sides. Since it involves the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, the security of the settlements, and the massive transfer of power and territory to the Palestinian Authority, it will be no simple matter.

An interim settlement, under the tight schedule of time remaining, will depend not only on a famous and too rare commodity—the prime minister's determination—but will require full public support, another resource that has become flimsy lately. This is not the appropriate time to annoy the efficient Golan lobbyists. There is no justification for driving the people mad over an egg that will not be hatched so quickly anyway.

The most important observation on al-Asad's position was brought by President Clinton upon his return from Damascus. He shared it with the Israeli leadership. Al-Asad does not have any real interest in a settlement, mainly because he fears the negative impact the peace could have on his control over his country. That evaluation surfaced again last week in the Cairo meeting. Mubarak told Rabin that the Syrian president prefers the current situation to accepting the Israeli demands for security arrangements.

The chances for an understanding depend on the outlook of the person we used to call the Syrian despot, as well as on Clinton's explanations. Al-Asad appears not too concerned about the existence of an early warning station on his land (even in return for a Syrian station on our land). What upsets him is the symbolic significance of an Israeli presence on his land even if sovereignty is returned to him. Al-Asad apparently has good reason to be concerned about undermining the 'Alawite minority's rule. Anyway, there is nothing to discuss with him until further notice. Syria, zilch.

The ambassadors' talks in Washington, which start this week, are a barren exercise. Ehud Baraq's presence is a mere optical illusion. The prime minister decided that Baraq will not participate in the discussions, except for one or two more sessions, for politeness' sake. Politeness toward the former chief of staff, not the Syrians. Rabin has been won over by Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, who feels uncomfortable with Baraq's breathing down his neck. The holiday maker-student also has a burning (barely hidden) ambition, which goes way beyond participating in a barren diversion with the Syrians in America.

Serious negotiations will come only when al-Asad gets up one morning and changes his formulations. On the face of it, the same can be said about Rabin and Peres, but it seems that even sworn doves should not be interested in forcing a settlement with Syria onto center stage right now. Anyway, it will only be decided in a referendum, and the most suitable date for that is the large referendum in the next general elections.

Rabin's basic assumption about the time at his disposal is correct and scary. He has made quite a large contribution to the loss of time. But the fact is that he does not have more than about three quarters of a year to complete the interim arrangement with the Palestinians—both the agreement and the implementation. Afterward, Rabin is convinced, the election year will mess everything up. Is anybody naive enough to think that something as formidable as a settlement with Syria on the Golan Heights can be worked out within that timeframe? Just lifting Syrian patronage of the Islamic Jihad and the various Fathi al-Shaqaqi's, as the Americans have been demanding, will take a year.

What is important now is to speed up the settlement on the West Bank. Busying ourselves too much with Syria will only harm matters. It is enough to put that track on what the Americans call the back burner. If and when we succeed in finishing things in the east, only then will the time be ripe to turn seriously northward.

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Commentary Criticizes Netanyahu's Political Plan

TA0802115295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 8 Feb 95 p 3

[Commentary by Shalom Yerushalmi: "Binyamin Netanyahu's Great Message"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu made three serious mistakes by exposing his impossible peace plan. Over the last few months Netanyahu has come to be regarded as a serious and judicious leader—after several painful falls early on. He has also managed to give the impression he would be able to deal with the Palestinians when he comes to power. The public put its confidence in Netanyahu and wanted to believe that he has some secret plan, a viable alternative to the Oslo agreements. The public opinion polls, which show Netanyahu far ahead of Rabin, gave vent to a desire for change.

Netanyahu's plan, however, put the Likud and its chairman in an embarrassing light. Those who thought Netanyahu was armed with a secret cannon which he is preserving for an opportune moment, instead found him stumbling in the dark armed with a water pistol. Netanyahu's "self-administration" plan is another plan for no peace with the Palestinians. It has no chance for success and no partner for implementing it. This plan is identical to Netanyahu's previous plan, the "security zones plan," which he disseminated in a panic two months after the Oslo agreements were signed.

Does Netanyahu really believe that the Palestinians will agree to return to what they regard as the odious days of the Camp David Accords now that the PLO has obtained recognition, the Oslo agreements have been signed, and there is movement toward the establishment of a separate entity? And who are the Palestinian representatives who Netanyahu has met and who accept his plan? Let him name one—only one—so that we know he is a serious person. Let this anonymous Palestinian negotiator merely hint he supports Netanyahu's self-administration plan. Will he outlive the day he admits to having maintained contacts with the Likud leader? What is all this nonsense? Can anybody forget what happened to the Village League [set up by the Likud some 15 years ago as a counterweight to the PLO] members on whom the Likud pinned so much hope?

It appears that Netanyahu is doing himself an injustice. After all, he knows perfectly well that his well-phrased statements and grand plans—to which he has no partner—are appropriate for the opposition. If the Likud comes to power, international and local factors will force him to behave differently. He will not permit himself to renege on agreements to which the U.S. President is a signatory. He will also be unable to keep away from 'Arafat, his most likely partner, or close him and his people behind a fence in the Gaza Strip.

Gimmicks will not do in real life and Netanyahu, a pragmatic man at heart, will have to quickly get used to real life. He realizes very well that his maneuvering room is limited, and his policy—if he becomes prime minister—will be exactly the opposite of the extremist statements that he will be unable to implement. How will he appear to the public then? Will he become just another conniving politician who has disappointed his voters? Is this the right-wing leader's great message?

Netanyahu's third mistake is in the sphere of interparty politics. The plans he has been airing with disturbing rapidity only create conflicts between Netanyahu and his senior Likud colleagues. It is well known that Beni Begin and Dan Meridor are opposed to any deviation from the Likud platform and the Camp David accords. Ari'el Sharon keeps saying the autonomy is a disaster and emphasizes he has always opposed it. David Levi used this opportunity to point out that Netanyahu is again coming up with ill- conceived plans, which seems to be true.

Those in the Likud who found no ideological grounds for attacking Netanyahu, claimed this week that the Likud's political bureau has been trying to formulate an alternative political plan (as though there is such a thing) over the last few months on the basis of a decision made by the Likud Central Committee. They claim that Netanyahu's statements have made this body redundant and the political discussions held there a big waste of time. Only Netanyahu knows why he needed all this much ado about nothing. Perhaps even he does not know.

Shahal: Israelis Who Enter Gaza Do So at 'Own Risk'

TA0702135895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that he is currently heading a team that is preparing a long-range plan for security arrangements along the Green Line between Judaea and Samaria and Israel.

In Shahal's opinion, Palestinians should not be permitted to work in Israel before the Palestinian Authority proves it is capable of dealing with terrorism. Mr. Shahal asserted that it is preferable that Palestinians use public transport rather than drive their private vehicles on Israeli roads. Shahal was speaking to our correspondent Nisim Qeynan at the Qatif Bloc after inaugurating a new police station there.

As for the passage of Israelis into the Gaza Strip, the police minister said that no decision prohibiting such movement has been made, but that anyone crossing into the Gaza Strip does so at his own risk.

Our correspondent adds that Israeli fuel tankers did not enter the Gaza Strip today, but that other Israeli suppliers drove into the autonomous area.

Shahal Says PA 'Not Fit To Be Israel's Neighbors'

TA0802111795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman, Batsheva Tsur and ITIM]

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[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Police Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday blasted the Palestinian Authority [PA] as "not fit to be Israel's neighbors" and Palestinians for "not valuing human life like the other peoples of the world."

Speaking at the inauguration of a police station in the Qatif Bloc, Shahal also said he remains firm in his belief that separation is essential between Palestinians and Israelis. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Gonen Segev said in response to Monday's [6 February] attack that he would propose changing the gasoline delivery system. From now on, Israeli tankers would travel as far as a new fuel depot to be established at the Erez checkpoint, where they would transfer their loads to tankers operated by the PA.

Gonen said three other fuel depots are planned for Judaea and Samaria: one near Hebron, one near the Allenby Bridge, and the third near Janin.

Shahal said he recommends that if the closure is partially lifted, Palestinians not be allowed to enter Israel in private vehicles, but only in buses and taxis, so security forces can control their movement more easily.

Until Israel sees improvement on the part of the Palestinians, the country "must be ready with guns in arms... and not accept them within us," Shahal said.

Later in the day, Shahal convened the committee he heads on separation between Israel and the Palestinians for its second meeting this week. The committee, which includes officials from all branches of the security forces, is expected to make recommendations early next month. [passage omitted]

In Jericho, meanwhile, Labor Party secretary-general Nisim Zvili said yesterday the government should make "political concessions to the Palestinians beyond what was agreed in the Oslo Accords, so that 'Arafat could present some achievements to his people."

This could include evacuating settlements from the Gaza Strip even in the interim stage, he said. Other concessions could include giving the PA more powers and freeing Palestinian prisoners, Zvili said.

In Cairo yesterday, Israeli-Palestinian talks on elections for Gaza and the territories resumed after a four-week break, a further sign that the worst of a crisis in the peace process might be over.

The two delegations met at a Cairo hotel for negotiations expected to focus on drafting an agreement on arrangements for the elections, already six months behind schedule. The delegation heads—Sa'ib 'Urayqat for the Palestinians and Yo'el Singer for Israel—met alone earlier in the day.

"We had a lengthy, good discussion, and we will continue to discuss throughout these two days. We have covered a number of issues," Singer said.

Intelligence Chief Sees 'Arafat Winning If Vote Held Now

TA0702175895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The head of military intelligence, Major General Uri Sagi, says if Palestinian elections were held today in the territories, Yasir 'Arafat would win with a substantial majority. The general told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that since last Thursday's [2 February] Cairo summit, 'Arafat has intensified his activities against the militant opposition. David Ze'ev reports:

[Ze'ev] Maj. Gen. Uri Sagi says 'Arafat wants elections to take place only once the Israeli army has withdrawn from the Arab population centers in the territories. The general is quoted from inside the closed-door meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He said 'Arafat wants the Israeli troops out first, so that it would not appear that Israel had helped him achieve a victory.

Last Thursday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is said to have had a frank exchange, in diplomatic jargon, with 'Arafat at the Cairo summit on the issue of terrorism, as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn looked on. The head of intelligence says now that, since the summit, 'Arafat has kept up his activity against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

But, Gen. Sagi also said that the Palestinian Authority is watching closely every step of the Israeli settlement activity, every tractor that moves, every building which is built. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 7 February carries a similar report by Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir who adds that Gen. Sagi told the committee that "anybody who thinks that the Syrians will agree to less than a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, down to the last grain of soil, is deluding himself. Sagi said the Syrians are acting on two levels: negotiations and an armed struggle. They conduct political negotiations on the one hand, while on the other they do not rein in Hizballah's operations from Lebanon, although they could do so. That is also why they do not curb the activities of the rejectionist organizations in Damascus, although they could do so. Sagi recounted that when the Americans asked the Syrian president why he does not take measures against terror, Hafiz al-Asad replied: Terror does not emanate from Syria but from Lebanon."]

Hamas-Like Infrastructure in Green Line Viewed

TA0302175895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 3 Feb 95 pp 8, 9, 10, 11

[Article by Sara Friedman and Amir Gilat: "In Umm-al-Fahm Hamas Starts at the Kindergarten"]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A radical Islamic infrastructure parallel to that of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories is being built within the Green Line. Children are recruited through a formal and informal educational network, which includes kindergartens, youth and sports movements, and summer camps. They use incitement, religious preaching, and charity to bring whole families into the movement's fold. An investigation conducted by MA'ARIV in the Israeli Arab sector, mainly of youth and education activities, shows that official budgets are occasionally used to build this infrastructure. The expose shows that what happens within the Green Line is almost identical to the process of recruiting and training Hamas activists (from kindergarten through university) spelled out in a document found by the security forces in the territories and obtained by MA'ARIV.

A senior defense source says that the kind of activities typical of Hamas in the territories is slowly growing within the Green Line, taking advantage of the rules of democracy, the freedom of expression and worship, the humane attitude of the Israeli authorities, and, in particular, "of the commitment given to the Arab parties in the Knesset not to take any measures against the Islamic Movement within the Green Line in exchange for their support for the government." The same source argues that within a few years "we will see Hamas in the Knesset."

People interviewed for this article—some on condition of anonymity—and others (such as Yig'al Karmon, a former antiterror adviser to the prime minister) readily admit that there is a serious problem and define it as "a bomb that any serious event could cause to explode." They describe the situation as "the construction within the Green Line of a radical Islamic infrastructure linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, one of whose principles is jihad."

The document describing the recruitment to Hamas in the territories details the steps to be followed in order to build the movement's infrastructure: "Schools have become one of the main areas of Islamic activity. If we want to succeed and promote any type of Islamic activities we cannot ignore school activities... It is there that bright and talented students can be found... The fate of the nation is determined in the schools... It is to schools that we must direct most of our efforts and resources... Activists must take the schools under their wings to make sure that they remain under Islamic dominance and influence... We must increase the momentum from year to year until we reach a point where Islam totally controls the activities of students and we turn the schools into training academies of outstanding graduates, propagandists, and skilled leaders."

The document goes on to describe ways to locate a "prodigy," who would then be appointed to supervise the students and lure them to the movement on the pretext of helping them with their studies: "School recruiters must have congenial personalities... Setting an example is a good and practical idea in the recruiting process... Students are usually willing to be led by outstanding performers... We must extend our help to the students to gain their sympathy and trust... We must keep a low profile when recruiting brother students... It is imperative to hold religious and national celebrations and ceremonies and morning sermons, to control the loudspeaker system in schools, and, particularly, to have one of the preachers give a weekly lesson either in school or in the mosque... holding athletic competitions for Muslim youths, organizing volunteer work in schools (such as cleaning the yard 'to give Islamic students a positive image in school'), holding quiz games in school or in the mosque, going on day trips according to a prearranged program."

The ideological model described in the aforementioned document is beginning to materialize in Umm-al- Fahm, a town in Israel. It is particularly evident among young children, both in the formal and informal school system. The town council is controlled by the Islamic Movement, which deposed the representative of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] with official encouragement. The radical infrastructure does not encompass the entire population, but vast sectors are being lured by the goodies the movement offers, such as activities for students after school hours to keep them away from pool joints, even if this involves classes in mosques; charity to needy families; and, mainly, the numerous kindergartens opened in the town, filling the vacuum and shortage of classrooms created by Israeli governments over the years. After the elections and the rise to power of the Islamic Movement, these kindergartens (which were once owned by the movement's nonprofit organization) officially became part of the town's system. The State of Israeli thus partially finances the kindergartens of a radical movement, but is unable to control the messages taught in them.

Opening kindergartens is a key point in imparting the radical Islamic ideology from a very young age. In the early 1980's there were only a few kindergartens in Umm-al-Fahm. Six more opened in the mid-1980's when the Islamic Movement rose to power, and in 1992 15 kindergartens were operating in the town.

By the end of 1992, 2,500 children educated in the spirit of Islam had already graduated from these kindergartens, which usually operate next to or inside mosques. Here are examples from other locations: A kindergarten opened in a mosque in the village of Kabul in the Western Galilee for 110 children from age three to five. From 0800 to 1300 each age group studies in a different room and gets a light meal. A special bus collects the children from home, and parents are also lured by the low tuition fees (80 shekels a month last year); needy families are exempt. In Kafr Qasim, some 500 children study in these kindergartens every year. Three years ago, the main kindergarten moved to a new building donated by a local resident. Tuition fees, including transportation and meals, amount to 50 shekels a month.

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The teachers wear head covers and are graduates of the 'Akko teachers' seminar. They teach the children the basics of Islam, traditional songs, and stories and fables from the Koran. The walls are decorated with the various names of Allah, Koranic verses, and pictures of the Temple Mount mosques.

The document: "...it should be stressed that our special attention to children's education stems from the fact that they are very young. From our point of view, they are pristine, a tabula rasa we can fill with whatever we want. This makes it easier to build their personality. With adults, it is hard to obtain satisfactory results in this respect.... The children will be divided into symmetrical groups; each group will be given two lessons and one sports training session a week; each group will be divided into small subgroups to give personal attention to each child.... Special attention and treatment should be given to children in the third to fifth grades."

The document also instructs teachers on the posture they should assume in the classroom, the intonation they should use, the example they should give each child in terms of politeness and good manners so that the movement is not considered repulsive but attractive and nice. The document also elaborates on ways to build a syllabus. [passage omitted]

At present the Islamic Movement is using a textbook written by a Syrian cleric, Sa'id Hawwah. In the book, "The Army of Allah," the author recommends reading the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." It goes without saying that the book includes a lengthy chapter dealing with all forms of jihad.

The Islamic Movement regularly holds summer camps for children, not only in villages it controls. The summer camps have a purely Islamic character: The children are divided into groups with each group's receiving the name of a different Muslim hero. Thus, there were groups named after 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, and some of the summer camps included almost overt incitement against Israel. In Sakhnin the movement conducted a summer camp attended by 185 children and 15 instructors, which set up an encampment in the Islamic spirit. The central tent was the mosque, and the camping activity was based on Islamic heritage.

The Education Ministry is familiar with the radical summer camps attended by schoolchildren. An Education Ministry source says that in order to prevent them, the ministry started to conduct summer camps with government funding. "They have a lot of money. It is hard to trace the source of this money—whether it comes from foreign contributions, fund-raising campaigns, or various nonprofit organizations. We are doing a lot, but it is hard for us to compete against the movement, especially in Umm-al-Fahm, where it has already built an extremely extensive infrastructure." He says a similar situation is encountered in Jaljuliyah, Kafr Qasim, Barta'a, Musheirifa, etc. "We are in deep trouble, and unless there is a drastic change in government allocations, it will be impossible to triumph."

In Umm-al-Fahm's large high school, the walls of which are decorated with Koranic verses, students speak of after-school activities, mainly conducted within the framework of the Islamic Movement's youth movement. Others are active in the Sons of the Village youth movement. Yet others loaf around without anything to do. The Islamic Movement's youth movement is the strongest and most active. It fills an empty space, takes a big load off the parents' shoulders, brings children back in contact with culture and religion, and also provides financial assistance and other contributions, such as food and clothing. The children study in mosques twice a week, perform volunteer work as told by the movement, and participate in trips in which they learn about all parts of the country. They travel in small groups touring everywhere, especially 'Akko, Jerusalem, "and other locations we possessed in the past." The town's mosques have become youth centers and the focus of all afternoon and weekend activity.

In the field of higher education as well, the Education Ministry has a problem supervising contents and competing against the Islamic Movement's higher education institutions. Umm-al-Fahm's College of Islamic Sciences opened in June 1993 in the western part of the town. Some 400 students, most of them female, study in the empty and neglected-looking two-story building. They meander veiled between the library and lecture rooms, which are decorated with pamphlets, Koranic verses, and pictures of the Temple Mount.

Last week the semester exams were being held and the college was virtually empty. Students pay a tuition of some 2,500 shekels, but the college depends almost entirely on contributions. It has a staff of some 20 teachers, many of them from the territories. Many students also come from the other side of the Green Line. The college is purportedly strongly influenced by the situation in the territories. How can a separation be effected? Who supervises the curriculum? These are difficult questions to which there is no answer.

Dr. Eli Rekhes, an Arabist from Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center says: "The college has become the main reservoir of Israeli Arab clerics for the next decade. The Islamic Movement took over the monopoly on training Israeli Muslim clerics, filling out the depleted ranks of imams, muezzins, and preachers. Again we see that wherever there is a gap in government activity, the Islamic Movement immediately enters."

The Palestinian Council for Higher Education has recently recognized the college, and so has the Islamic Universities Association. This fact enables the graduates to pursue their studies in other institutions in the Muslim world. The college has also reached an agreement with the al-Najah University in Nabulus allowing its graduates to study there. This reflects the three levels

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in which the Islamic Movement operates—the pan-Islamic, territories, and Green Line levels.

The movement's leaders and Arab public figures are striving to attain Education Ministry recognition of the college, thus legitimizing it. "At the present time the college is operating without any recognition, and this is a situation wherein the state has no control and supervision over what is going on there," Dr. Rekhes emphasizes.

There have already been calls in the past to close down the college in the wake of reports that some graduates were involved in terror activity. Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement says: "In every university there are those who transgress the law. If a student violates the law, it does not mean that the university itself did so."

Mosques have become a preferred activity center for Muslim- affiliated youths within the Green Line. This is based on the Muslim Brotherhood doctrine.

The document: "Activity in the mosques—reviving the role of the mosque as a center.... by turning it into a symbol of struggle, education, and faith. Advancement of the youth—a place for youth gathering, deepening Islamic awareness.... lectures and symposiums, quiz games, pamphlets, library.... training youth groups in writing and reading.... Koran reading lessons and weekly vocational lessons.

"...a coded list of names of mosque activists should be prepared.... files with details on the condition of all the needy.... Every worshiper should prepare a report on his neighborhood and neighbors.... The social committee will take care of the tuition of needy students.... and will help the needy within the framework of the mosque youth association.... Voluntary work is one of the pillars and can help in the recruitment of new devotees to Islam.... Sports are only a means, not an end."

Based on the document, the Islamic Movement is making special efforts in sports. It established a Muslim soccer league including 52 teams. Its players and referees are divided into two leagues which offer an alternative to the regular league. Games are always preceded by prayer and proceed without any interruptions, in perfect sportsmanship, without any cursing and bickering between players and fans. Players wear long trousers, and after the games the members of each team embrace their opponents, enjoy a festive meal, and conduct a joint prayer for both teams. Physical exercises are always conducted in the Muslim spirit. The Muslim league is very popular, and game results are publicized in the local press. [passage omitted]

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein admits there is a problem, mainly in the kindergarten age. The way to fight these phenomena requires funding, and at the present time there is real competition over the long school day with the Islamic Movement, which provides an efficient kindergarten infrastructure. "It has to be clear that providing free education for the 3-to-5-years age group in the entire country, not only the Arab sector—as the Islamic Movement does— will cost us hundreds of millions of shekels, and we do not have the funding for this."

Rubinstein says the Islamic phenomenon within the education system is marginal. "I see Arab children standing with the Israeli flag in ceremonies, and I can hear new tunes in the Arab sector. We are doing everything to encourage this trend." He claims that over the last two years the Education Ministry has done much to improve the infrastructure and to offer an alternative to the Islamic Movement. Dozens of children's activity centers for the afternoon hours have been built and more school rooms were added. "By implementing equal rights we will strengthen the moderates."

The ministry is now working out a new concept for the Arab education system. A proposal in this light was submitted by an independent council set up by Rubinstein for the Arab sector and will be studied shortly. Technological education has already been increased; a joint civics program for the Jewish and Arab sectors has been worked out; new science programs and matriculation encouragement were added. "Only through education can we curb the radicals," Rubinstein says.

The education minister says that if rumors about instigative radical activity in the Islamic Movement's summer camps are true, he will involve the police, "because this is an issue for police treatment. They must act within the framework of the law."

"I want to emphasize that we are not acting against Islam, only against the radicals who distort it for dubious ends," Rubinstein says. "The best way to fight them is through education, although I harbor no illusions that we will be able to entirely prevent these phenomena, which are deep rooted. Maybe it has something to do with the disillusionment about the modern world. As long as they operate within the framework of the law, however, we must do nothing. This is the price of democracy.

"There Is Instigation Against Us Just As There Was Against the Jews" [inset box]

Reacting to this article, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, the leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, stated a few days ago: "This is the era of instigation against Islam. We had an era of instigation against the PLO, then an era of instigation against the Jews, and now it is Islam's turn. I am ashamed that the victims of instigation are now doing the same."

Darwish stressed that the Islamic Movement clearly operates according to Israeli law and that its political platform is well known. "The movement accepts the principle of an independent state for the Jews and an independent state for the Palestinians. There is no other Islamic movement in the entire region that recognizes

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the Israeli entity," Shaykh Darwish stressed. He denied that his movement follows the Muslim Brotherhood's doctrine. "We all believe in Allah, but our world views are different," he said.

Referring to the movement's vast activities in the field of education, welfare, sports, and religion and the absence of any government supervision over them, he said: "Please, let the Education Ministry recognize our institutions and supervise them. We have no objection. The Education Ministry does not want to recognize us. We are prepared to have our kindergartens, youth movements, sports clubs, and the Islamic College recognized. Please, be our guests; let the State of Israel open kindergartens, found youth movements, and build universities in the Arab sector. If the government does all of it, I will not have to work so hard. However, the government does not give the Arab sector what it rightfully deserves."

Commenting on the movement's connections with the inhabitants of the territories, he said: "They are our brothers. My wife comes from the territories. What do you want? Once again, this is instigation which will only lead to radicalization. I am a moderate man who supports coexistence and peace, but the attempts to draw the people to the right will lead to radicalization and the collapse of peace in the Middle East. I will not be the only one who will suffer as a result."

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Jordan-Israel Peace Committee Meets To Discuss Progress

TA0702112695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The committee overseeing implementation of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty met yesterday in Dayr 'Alla, Jordan, and received a report on progress in the negotiations leading to the signing of trade, transportation, and military liaison agreements.

An agreement on tourism was finalized, and the agreement determining the liaison and coordination arrangements between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Jordanian Army was initialed.

The joint committee dealing with the issue of an air corridor between Israel and Jordan also met. Some progress was made, and the sides are making a concerted effort to achieve overall agreement soon.

The peace treaty states that within three months of the exchange of the ratified documents between the heads of state, agreements on tourism and the liaison and coordination mechanism between the two countries' armies would be signed. In addition, the IDF would deploy along the border determined by the peace treaty, and the statutory processes enshrining the peace treaty in the internal legal systems of the two countries would be completed.

Last week, the Knesset passed the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty Law. A similar bill is pending in Jordan. In addition to the two areas where a special regime is in force, the new border between Israel and Jordan includes recognition of Israel's sovereignty over those areas where land is cultivated by Israeli communities in the 'Arava.

On Thursday, three months after the peace treaty documents of ratification were exchanged, meetings of the supervision committee and the joint border committee will be held in the Tzofar and Naharayim areas.

Foreign Minister Reviews Cairo Summit

JN0702104995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Feb 95 p 23

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Hatim Ghanim, in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ghanim] It is said that Israel has achieved what it wants at the Cairo quadrilateral summit without offering anything in return. What do you think?

[Al-Kabariti] The summit was certainly unprecedented. It came late in response to an Egyptian invitation, in a sincere attempt to invigorate the Palestinian-Israeli track. This track has stumbled and reached a state of paralysis because Israel blames the Palestinian side for the Bet Lid operation. If we assume, for the sake of argument, that the Cairo summit did not achieve anything—since no executive mechanism was contained in the final statement to halt the settlement activity or to facilitate the implementation of the agreement regarding the holding of the Palestinian elections, ending the siege of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the redeployment of Israeli troops—and if we assume, for the sake of argument, that nothing of the above has been achieved, then we may say that the summit has not achieved anything. However, this cannot be considered in any way a victory for Israel. Nor can we say that it was Israel's summit. What happened is that the four parties have reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the agreements signed between them in letter and spirit.

We as foreign ministers will convey this to the United States. We will ask the United States—since it is a main partner in the peace process—to exercise its role and influence the Israeli side to break the deadlock and make Israel implement the second stage of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, and to remove all obstacles to this process. I think the United States has a direct interest in the continuation of the peace process. Therefore, I pin hopes on the Washington meeting to activate the Palestinian-Israeli track and make some progress. This would not have been possible without the Cairo meeting, since this meeting enabled the three Arab parties to speak to Israel in one language and tell it that the basic issue is the Palestine question and that if no progress is made and no solution is found to this problem, then the agreements signed with Egypt and Jordan will not ensure the continuation of peace in the region.

[Ghanim] It is said that the Cairo summit has failed to achieve any concrete progress and so turned to Washington for solutions. What do you think?

[Al-Kabariti] The parties that are looking for solutions are many. We in Jordan rejected Israeli statements on the summit as soon we we heard a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that what happened was an alliance for peace or an alliance that brought together the parties that have signed peace agreements with Israel. We reject such reasoning. We think that an alliance for peace expresses the slogan to which the international community has adhered, which is partnership for peace. The partners here are all the countries of the international community, in addition to the Arab countries and Israel. This is because the outcome of peace will reflect positively on the entire world and not only on the countries of the region. Likewise, the whole world will pay the price of any war or explosion that may take place if no progress is made in the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Yes, responsibility for peace is not only the business of the Arabs. It is the business of the international community. We hope that the international community, especially the United States, which has the greatest weight and influence, will do what is required of it and put pressure on Israel to make it adhere to the agreements it has signed, since the United States played a major role in reaching the agreements and witnessed their endorsement.

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[Ghanim] Some parties concerned with the peace process have criticized the Cairo summit. What is your opinion?

[Al-Kabariti] I understand the position of any party that has not yet concluded a peace agreement with Israel when it objects to any meeting which, it may feel, does not serve its interest in terms of restoring its rights.

During the summit, the three [Arab] countries said that there should be a comprehensive solution and that no real peace can be achieved unless it falls within the framework of a comprehensive solution. I believe that all concerned Arab parties were represented at this meeting even though they did not all attend.

[Ghanim] How do you view the future of the peace process in light of Israel's going back on charters, its continuation of settlement activities, the decline in Rabin's popularity, as well as his weakness, inability, and hesitation to make decisions?

[Al-Kabariti] The peace process is definitely blocked. It has reached a critical stage, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track and in terms of the internal situation in Israel due to popular and electoral pressure on Rabin's government. These things cannot be changed. However, we are fully aware that they will have a negative impact on the extent of the [Israeli] Government's readiness to move ahead toward implementing the agreements. In light of this reality facing the Israeli Government, we can only say that it should adhere to the need to implement the provisions of the agreements in text and in spirit. I stress the need for the main partner; namely, the United States, as well as the European countries and all members of the international community to perform their duties and shoulder their responsibilities toward implementing these agreements.

[Ghanim] Did the summit succeed in reinforcing the prestige of Rabin and 'Arafat, each of whom are suffering from a decline in popularity?

[Al-Kabariti] The intent of the Cairo summit was not to reinforce the prestige of any of its participants. Actually, we are not concerned about what is taking place in the internal arena. We have no right to interfere in Israeli internal affairs. However, we hope that this summit provided a clear message to the international community that the countries which signed agreements with Israel will not accept being the prisoners of these agreements without an Israeli commitment to implementing them.

What is happening now in terms of siege, separation, the heating up of the settlement building process, and the categorical rejection of redeployment and of holding elections do not build any kind of confidence in Israel's credibility and seriousness toward implementing the Oslo agreement and reaching its final stages. [passage omitted]

Amman, West Bank Chambers of Commerce Plan Cooperation

JN0402175195 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 4 Feb (PETRA)—An agreement on trade cooperation was signed here today between the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Chambers of Commerce of Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Jericho in the occupied West Bank.

The agreement includes facilities for investors and businessmen. It encourages them to develop cooperation between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, exchange expertise and information, and consult on mechanisms for bilateral trade cooperation.

The agreement also calls for bilateral coordination and cooperation at Arab and foreign meetings, and for organizing joint fairs for national industries and training courses, and establishing a basis for economic integration between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

On the Jordanian side, the agreement was signed by Haydar Murad, chairman of Amman Chamber of Commerce. On the Palestinian side, it was signed by As'ad Hasunah, chairman of Ramallah Chamber of Commerce; Rabah 'Abdin, member of Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce; and Tawfiq Nuaysir, secretary of Jericho Chamber of Commerce.

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Buwayz on U.S.-Lebanese Security Talks, Summit

NC0702182795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the security talks that took place in the first session of meetings between the Lebanese and American sides focussed on the security situation in Lebanon during the past few years. The evidence for this lies in the security statistics the Lebanese side presented regarding crimes committed, referrals to the courts, and the verdicts and sentences passed, Buwayz said. He added: I believe that all these statistics and data could set at ease the minds of all those who want to determine the security situation in Lebanon. Buwayz said this in a news conference he held at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon.

[Begin recording] In no case do we expect radical and immediate decisions to be taken, inasmuch as we believe that we did our duty to explain and clarify the new Lebanese situation. If intentions are good regarding this matter, I believe that gradual arrangements could be made, even if they need some time. These talks might not end with this visit. They might be resumed later on, depending on the requirements from the success of these talks, through visits the American side will make to Lebanon or vice versa. I believe that the current information the Lebanese side presented to the U.S. side is enough to give the U.S. side a new perspective to evaluate and study the situation in Lebanon. [end recording]

Minister Buwayz then spoke about the Cairo summit. He said that peace cannot be anything but cohesive and comprehensive. He said that separate links in the chain of peace cannot defend themselves alone. He expressed his belief that the Israeli maneuvers to separate the peace tracks have established that they form only viewpoints, not strategic decisions toward peace.

Syrian President's Ties to Islamists Analyzed

NC0402185095 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 30 Jan 95 pp 3-7

[Article by Chief Editor Hasan Sabra: "Al-Asad and the Islamists"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] No government in the Islamic world separates religion from state as the Syrian Government does, and no country in the Islamic world supports the Islamists in their political inclinations as Syria does. It is an equation produced by the creative mind of leader Hafiz al-Asad.

In 1983 he told al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah: "Do you know, when I saw the Muslim youths staging a sit-in in one of the mosques of Beirut's southern suburb to protest the presence of the multinational forces in Lebanon, the Israeli aggression, and the practices of the Bashir al-Jumayyil government, I looked at Abu-Jamal ['Abd-al-Halim Khaddam] and said: Abu-Jamal, our natural place is among those youths. Do you remember, Abu-Jamal, when we took to the streets in Latakia when we were students to demonstrate against colonialism? Here is colonialism at our border, torturing our people in Lebanon. These youths are doing what we did when we were young, and I wish we could go and sit with them."

Hafiz al-Asad did not sit in with the Muslim youths in Imam Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd, but he provided them with the political cover and the unlimited support that turned the Western presence, which came as one of the consequences of the Zionist invasion, into a hell. Hundreds of their soldiers were killed in the bombing of the U.S. Marines headquarters (256 Marines were killed and many others injured) and the French paratroopers headquarters (83 were killed and dozens were injured).

Syria did not fire a single bullet in these two operations. It had not yet dressed the wounds left by the Israeli invasion, which partly targeted its pan-Arab role in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, Zionist and colonialist circles in the United States and the West in general believed that Syria enabled the heroes of the two operations to carry them out so that this could signal the end of the Western influence, in its traditional form, in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

To the Americans, Syria fully deserved the characterization of a country that sponsors terrorism. And Damascus was put on a list that Washington tailored to measure its own conscience—a conscience that cries when a man falls into a ditch but turns a blind eye, and turns the face of the Statue of Liberty at New York's entrance to the other side, when U.S. friends and soldiers perpetrate massacres in which thousands of people are killed throughout the world day and night.

But this had no effect on Hafiz al-Asad.

Operations against the Zionist occupation of the Arab land escalate, and Syria is accused of supporting the attackers. Its name is engraved in the list of the countries that support terrorism, the economic blockade against it intensifies, and its treasury becomes almost empty of foreign currency.

And yet, this has had no effect on al-Asad's policy.

Even when the Americans began moving toward al-Asad and U.S. Representative to the United Nations Vernon Walters came to ask him to stop his support for the Islamists in Lebanon and Palestine, al-Asad told him: Mr. Walters, if Washington continues its unlimited support for Israel, which is occupying our Arab land, you will probably come to me next time and find me wearing a turban, growing a beard, and carrying beads in my hands.

Al-Asad did not change, even though Syria continued to be on the U.S. terrorism list. [passage omitted]

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You ask men of religion, Muslims and many Christians, about President al-Asad's Islamic perspective. You ask people from [Syrian] Mufti Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaro to Imam Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and before them Imam Musa al-Sadr. They all see a comprehensive strategic Islamic view as they hear al-Asad telling them about the immortal battles of Islam and the great men of Islam and the impact this left on him. They all conclude that leader al-Asad finds in the Arab and Muslim leaders throughout the ages, from the dawn of Islam to the ascendance of Saladin and the positions of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, an honorable heritage and a nondepleting record that he inspires in his policy.

He is a man of strategy, a politician of the first class, and his firm principles are the most important backer of his meaningful tactics. Otherwise, how can one explain the fact that al-Asad is the most prominent Arab, Islamic, and Third World leader with excellent relations with the majority of the Islamic movements in the Arab and Islamic world?

No single Islamic movement dared to criticize him, although he did not apply the Islamic shari'ah—a common excuse used by many Islamic groups to label regimes, rulers, and establishments as blasphemous!

But the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria criticized him!

And it even fought him and was engaged in a Zionist-American campaign against him when he opposed the Camp David agreement. [passage omitted]

But Syria stood fast; it confronted the Muslim Brotherhood at home and returned to confront Camp David abroad.

And yet al-Asad did not change his Islamic position. Those who accompanied al-Asad at that time noted how he grasps historic opportunities and uses them to serve his strategic policy without leaving grudges to obstruct his plans.

Now we come to the essence of the subject—Lebanon. The Islamic activity in Lebanon could not have grown in the way it has without the Syrian front, a front that is open to all Palestine in terms of fighting and to half of Lebanon in terms of presence. This is what happened after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Syria opened its front to every Arab-Islamic voluntary action. Dozens of people came from Arab countries driven by jihad and pan-Arab motives. This was an individual and secret effort by the volunteers. Many of them, after returning safely to their countries, were questioned; and some of them were imprisoned, pursued, or exiled; and some of them are still in Lebanon.

Hundreds and thousands came from Iran pursuant to a political, strategic Syrian decision to transfer the Iranian border to Palestine. In this decision, al-Asad explains his view that his support for Iran [during the Iraq-Iran war] was not against the Iraqi regime or the security of the Gulf, but was meant to reinforce the front of steadfastness and confrontation against the Zionist enemy after the isolation of Egypt through its unilateral agreement with the enemy. [passage omitted]

Syria's support was not confined to the Islamic groups that took Iran as their military, political, economic, and religious term of reference, like Hizballah and others. The Islamic Resistance is one of the most prominent establishments of Hizballah and Iran in Lebanon. Syria made efforts to attract other groups that no one once thought of, especially the so-called al-Ahbash group, which emerged from the lap of the Fatah movement and cooperated with the Lebanese Government agencies after the Israeli invasion and the installment of Amin al-Jumayyil after the death of his brother Bashir. This group then found itself fighting the militias that controlled Beirut after 6 February 1984 until it was embraced by Syria in a political position that primarily sought to use the growing energies of the Islamists amid a sweeping Islamic upsurge in the Islamic world and the Arab homeland in its heart. The group benefited from this by attracting some youths to its ranks amid a climate of a sectarian sedition created by the militias of these bad times. Among Syria's other purposes was to find a rival to Lebanon's Islamic Group, a Lebanese term for the Muslim Brotherhood, many of whose leaders still had very negative residue as a result of the old vicious confrontation in Syria.

But Syria's intelligent view in dealing with the Islamists in Lebanon was not confined to the al-Ahbash group among the Sunnis, but went beyond that to include the Islamic Group itself. Syria held many dialogues with the group in Damascus and Tripoli with the participation of some Muslim Brotherhood members in Syria, members who had repented their old scheme and condemned the old attempt against the regime.

The dialogue between Damascus and the leaders of the Islamic Group in Lebanon followed dialogues Syria held with Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Syria itself. Some of them were in prison and some returned to Syria to continue a dialogue that began in Europe. The main purpose of the dialogues was to evaluate Syria's al-Asad stance against Israeli and Western schemes.

Many Muslim Brotherhood leaders ended their opposition, made peace with the Syrian regime, and even cooperated with it. Others left Syria and never went back, while still others maintained their hostile positions toward Syria and established offices and camps in Germany, where the German intelligence service is entrusted by the CIA with creating an atmosphere of cooperation between the Islamists and the West.

The dialogue with the MB in Lebanon began in Tripoli, the center of MB activity in Lebanon. While certain MB leaders show understanding of the positions of some of their brothers in Syria, others do not and have begun various war tactics against Damascus and act as tools of

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Yasir 'Arafat, who was formerly a MB member in Gaza. Fierce battles were fought in Tripoli between the Islamic groups that disagreed with the MB. They formed the Islamic Unification Movement and linked themselves to 'Arafat and the other political forces. 'Arafat, who encouraged and financed these clashes and who stood to gain from them, emerged the biggest loser.

Syria opened its heart to the Islamic group leaders who wanted a dialogue with it. After the dialogue, these leaders reached a reconciliation with Syria, a reconciliation that is steadily growing into an understanding and cooperation. They became part of Syria's Islamic strategy in Lebanon. They also became the second part of the Sunni Islamic movement, along with the al-Ahbash Group, although contradictions continued between the two groups as a result of the struggle for interests and influence—similar to the struggle between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, the two Shiite wings that used Islamic slogans, either with genuine motives or as a tactic.

This cooperation between Syria and the Islamic groups in Lebanon helped eight Hizballah members, three Islamic Group members, and one al-Ahbash Group member win seats in the Chamber of Deputies. This is apart from the deputies of the Amal Movement, some of whom are Islamic, while others are secularists, former leftists, or graduates of the Iraqi Ba'th Party school.

Regarding Palestine, the two Islamic groups that are waging fierce resistance against the Zionist enemy—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad—maintain the best of ties with Syria. Both have established headquarters in Damascus and their relations with Syria were further strengthened as a result of Syria's firm strategic stance safeguarding Arab and Islamic rights.

Thus, most Arab regimes are in a state of declared hostility and are fighting a battle of survival against the Islamic groups in their countries. Some of these groups have begun to view Syria as a model and are asking their regimes to follow the Syrian example. They have agreed to postpone the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah provided these regimes wage a pan-Arab Islamic battle. With its secular regime, Syria now seems to be pursuing the clearest Arab policy in hosting the Islamic groups and ensuring them political, media, and popular facilities.

One of the leaders of the Islamic groups struggling against the Zionist enemy recalls that leader al-Asad watches television reports on every operation launched by the resistance against Israel, then contacts his information minister and requests him to replay the cassette, accompanied by martial music and quiet and sober language, every now and then. He recalls that President al-Asad reads all reports on the operations and listens to the reactions to these operations by the Zionist enemy, the West, and the U.S. media.

Russian Envoy Arrives, Meets With Buwayz

NC0802094095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arriving in Beirut this morning, Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk met Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Attending the meeting was Russian Ambassador to Lebanon Gennadiy Ilichev. The talks during the meeting revolved around the peace process and the Russian role in it.

The Russian envoy will meet President Ilyas al-Hirawi this afternoon.

Japan Reopens Embassy After Decade of Closure

NC0702204295 Paris AFP in English 1756 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Feb 7 (AFP)—Japan has reopened its embassy in Lebanon after a 10-year closure, Japanese charge d'affaires Takao Natsume told reporters Tuesday [7 February].

Natsume, who is resident in Damascus, said an ambassador would take up his duties in the next few months at the embassy located in the B'abda district of east Beirut.

He was speaking after talks in Beirut with Lebanese foreign ministry secretary-general Zafir al-Hasan.

Since 1990 several Western and Arab embassies have reopened in Lebanon. They were closed during the 1975-1990 civil war.

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Khaddam States Demands on Recovery of Occupied Lands

MM0302211995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has said that "Lebanon has risen up from its fall, thanks to the efforts of its sincere sons and the understanding reached among its institutions." And that "the mode of the awakening is auspicious." He said that "this dear country has all the capabilities to eliminate the effects of the past stage. And we see in the coincidence between the Syrian and Lebanese lines in the negotiations high pan-Arab awareness and commitment on Lebanon's part—which will inevitably lead to recovering the usurped land and rights." He told a delegation from the Lebanese "Islamic Grouping Movement" that Syria appreciates Lebanon's cohesion and adherence to the pan-Arab solution. And it believes that the efforts exerted by Lebanese Government institutions to topple the sectarian, territorial, and factional logic, and to build a society of justice and equality among the various areas in terms of development—is a strength for Lebanon and the Arab nation and a reinforcement for the role assigned to Lebanon on the Arab scene. Because a homeland cannot exist without national affiliation, nor can a nation exist without its people's national sense of belonging."

He announced that "Syria looks with admiration at the positive pan-Arab role being played by the Lebanese Government, and its development policy and efforts to reactivate the institutions and return the evacuees to their homes." He pointed to "Beirut's vitality" and praised the "efforts exerted to restore its development and pan-Arab role." He said that "a people who have emerged from an 18-year war to eliminate—with astonishing vigor—the effects of the war, to purge society of corruption and chaos, and to work to restore the institutions—deserve respect."

He pointed out that the "enemy is trying—by raising the Middle East identity—to abolish the pan-Arab affiliation of the the Arab nation's peoples." He stressed that "the Middle East identity would make Israel the axis of economic and political life. It would also sever the ties among the peoples of the nation from the east to the west. And while Syria views the peace negotiations as a step toward ending the state of war, these negotiations do not at all mean that we accept all proposed settlement frameworks. It is clear to us that a peace made by ourselves cannot be considered capitulation. Because we are seeking a real peace based on justice, equality, and the restoration of national and pan-Arab rights—which does not at all make leasing contracts and partnership a state of just peace."

He stressed that "Syria entered the peace negotiations on the basis of the pan-Arab and national constants." He emphasized that "it will not accept anything less that the recovery of the occupied territory in the Golan, southern Lebanon, and west al-Biqa'. This position cannot be abandoned, no matter how long or short the negotiations."

Discusses Lebanon's Situation, Peace Process

NC0702203095 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 4 Feb 95 pp 4, 15

["Parts" of an interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Kaddam by Nabil Khuri in Damascus; date not given; broadcast on FUTURE Television on 3 February]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Khuri] Our first question is about the future, Lebanon's future.

[Khaddam] In simple words, I am optimistic about Lebanon's future following the Lebanese people's success in stopping the civil war and approving the national accord document and the state's success in restoring its establishments and their unity, in establishing stability and security in the country, in starting to rebuild what was destroyed by the war, and in achieving a national consensus on the stand toward the Israeli aggression. All these things make me optimistic about Lebanon's future. I believe that Lebanon has passed the most important stage it had to go through to restore its Lebanese, Arab, regional, and international role. As I said, I am hopeful and optimistic about a prosperous future for Lebanon and the Lebanese.

[Khuri] There is no talk in Lebanon today other than about extending or renewing the president's tenure and the presidential elections. It is no secret that it is being said that Syria is the first elector in Lebanon's presidential elections. Is there Syrian thinking or a decision about the issue of presidential renewal, extension, or elections?

[Khaddam] To say that Syria is the first elector in Lebanon is an injustice to Syria and Lebanon. The first and final elector in Lebanon is the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. It is the one that decides what is best when it comes to the Lebanese presidency. It elects the person it believes is best qualified to lead the country and to be at the head of the Lebanese state. It is the chamber that decides whether some of the Constitution's clauses have to be reviewed on this or any other issue. Therefore, this is a purely Lebanese concern and the issue depends on what the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies decides, this chamber which is fully qualified and which has shown great efficiency as a legislative authority in the past. I do not believe that Lebanon has seen a chamber more active and productive than the present one. A chamber with these qualifications has all the resources to make the proper decision. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] Some are linking the presidential elections in Lebanon to the peace process and saying such things as: The extension or renewal will be raised if the peace and the peace process stall because Lebanon cannot, in its current condition, make a political move such as a new presidency and, conversely, there could be elections if

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peace advances. Is there, in your view, a connection between the peace process and the presidential elections?

[Khaddam] I do not think there is a connection between the two because when the Lebanese Constitution, or any other constitution, sets a definite period of time for establishments and for individuals in these establishments, then it supposedly took all the circumstances into account. In any case, it is up to the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to assess this matter. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] Is it your view now that the al-Ta'if accord should not be amended?

[Khaddam] Raising the issue creates delusions in one party and fears in another. It is known that this issue needs a two-thirds decision from the Chamber of Deputies. According to my information, I do not believe and I do not think that there is any thinking in this direction in the Chamber. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] Is there currently a dialogue between Syria and the Christian factions in Lebanon?

[Khaddam] Syria considers all Lebanese as its brothers. There are no pro-Syria factions or hostile factions. We consider all factions as friends and brothers. Our doors are open to everyone. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has always been clear in his instructions to the Syrian parties concerned with the Lebanese file, exhorting them to deal with all Lebanese factions as brothers regardless of their political and social affiliations.

[Khuri] There is some fear among the Christians that might be real or imaginary. They express this fear of the Syrian role in Lebanon erroneously. Certain people think of the special relations between the two countries as meaning unity; others, like Fu'ad Butrus, [former foreign minister] call it confederation, and still others view it as integration in view of the continuing Syrian military presence and the continuing political influence in the future. Even these issues, particularly integration, have not been fully explained and are being portrayed in Lebanon as Syrian control of Lebanon. I feel the opposite, particularly when the agreements are implemented. I think these issues require some explanation.

[Khaddam] Everyone knows that Syria has no ambitions in Lebanon and that Lebanon stands to gain from its ties with Syria, particularly in the economic sphere. To Lebanon, Syria is a big and stable country with major resources and it enjoys a growing economic boom. So Lebanon stands to gain from Syria. As I have heard from many Lebanese, especially those working in business ventures, they want Syria to agree to open its doors economically and politically to Lebanon for two reasons: First, they are worried about the future Israeli role in the region because if peace is established in the region, the first losers would be the Lebanese because large numbers of Lebanese work in all Arab countries. The Israelis will try to replace them and to take Lebanon's role in numerous spheres, especially the financial, medical, cultural and other fields. There is a great concern in Lebanon over the Israeli role. These brothers, therefore, want close, extensive, and comprehensive dealings with Syria to protect Lebanon and its interests. Second, they believe that extensive relations with Syria will open Syria's markets to Lebanese products, industrial and otherwise. Hence, the Lebanese have a real interest in Syria. As far as I know, those who entertain worry about Syrian-Lebanese relations are small in number and their interests are not linked to Lebanon's.

[Khuri] The Lebanese Army is assuming its role in the field of security and preparedness. Could it soon become the security tool in Lebanon?

[Khaddam] Lebanon should get to a stage where the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, with the help of the Army, will be able to shoulder the security responsibilities. In practice, we will pave the way for the Lebanese security forces in any region where they can assume their security responsibilities, because such a step will decrease many of our burdens. Our presence in Lebanon is linked to two issues:

1. It is linked to what the Lebanese state decides to do because we are there to help Lebanon.

2. And it is linked to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and its continuation. In addition, there is the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination signed between the two countries which has organized all aspects of relations between them.

[Khuri] You once said that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri is a prime minister who will go down in Lebanon's history. However, here I would like to note that Syria is not helping Prime Minister al- Hariri's government as much as it should in its political, development, or construction projects, particularly in the field of opposition inside the cabinet from some ministers who are thought to be or claim to be pro-Syrian. This is why this government is facing opposition from outside, which is normal for Lebanon, as well as internally, at a time when it needs to concentrate all its efforts on these big and complicated projects during this stage of peace.

[Khaddam] In fact, that is not an objective opinion. Syria's decision is to offer support and backing in all possible forms to the Lebanese state with all its institutions. We realize that providing the right atmosphere to all the institutions of the Lebanese state so they can practice their constitutional rights could strengthen the national reconciliation march. It could create an atmosphere that strengthens the country's internal front and enables it to face internal or external developments. Actually, within this framework, we offer the Lebanese Government all the help it asks of Syria. The security help we give is help to the Lebanese Government to try to defuse tensions among the parties with whom we have friendly relations. It is help to the Lebanese Government. We consider all the members of the Lebanese

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cabinet friends of ours. As I said a short while ago, all the Lebanese are friends and brothers. Of course, discussions could take place and opinions could be voiced in any institutions. These opinions are considered objective ones to those who hold them, and subjective or partial to those who do not. However, the important thing is for the institution to perform its role and then make a majority decision. The country is a democratic one. In any country in the world, it is neither strange nor ruled out for institutions to voice different opinions.

[Khuri] Mr. Vice President: We have elaborated on Lebanon's affairs, although there are many other hot issues, notably peace in the Middle East, which will determine our course and destiny for a time to come. Specifically, I want first to know Your Excellency's opinion on the peace file and the agreements that were signed in Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah. Second, what information could you give us about the course of the Syrian- Israeli negotiations? A week ago, Warren Christopher delivered a speech at Harvard University in which he appeared very optimistic. But since I arrived in Damascus I have been under the impression that this exaggerated optimism is unjustified.

[Khaddam] We, in fact, want peace. For us, peace is not a tactical position, but a strategic position based on many considerations. These considerations firmly convinced us that we have a major interest in work to achieve peace in the region. Naturally, we viewed the conflict with Israel—not only viewed but believed that this conflict is an Arab-Israeli conflict that started with the Balfour Declaration, and that the target of the Zionist movement is not only Palestine. Moreover, we as Arab nationalists believe in the unity of the Arab homeland and consider aggression against any part of the Arab land to be aggression against the entire nation. Consequently, this conflict is an Arab-Israeli conflict. On this basis, all the Arab summits that have been held over approximately half a century proceeded from this understanding, stressing that individual and separate solutions are unacceptable.

We were surprised to see some Arab sides violating what we had agreed upon. Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO had agreed to work together to reach a comprehensive peace, and they agreed to coordinate their position, both during the Madrid conference and during the talks that emanated from the Madrid conference. It had been agreed that the foreign ministers would meet after every round of talks in Washington for the purpose of coordination. The negotiators in Washington were also coordinating among themselves. And all of a sudden, the Oslo agreement appeared.

[Khuri] Was it really a surprise to Syria?

[Khaddam] Yes. We had no information. What surprised us even more was the fact that 'Arafat had made statements to a French newspaper and to an Egyptian newspaper in which he attacked Syria, saying that it was agreed with Israel to conclude a separate deal, and that the deal would be at the expense of the Palestinians. There was such a campaign against Syria, accusing the country of working to reach a separate solution. So, the Oslo agreement came as a surprise.

After the Oslo agreement, 'Arafat came here and we discussed the matter with him. We clearly told him: This agreement does not meet any minimum rights of the Palestinian people. Nevertheless, this matter concerns the Palestinians. For many years, you have called for an independent national Palestinian decision and for lifting the trusteeship. We do not want to exercise trusteeship or intervene in your decisions. This concerns the Palestinian people and they are the ones to decide. We have no objection to anything agreed on by the Palestinians.

Anyway, we now see the position of the Palestinian people on the Oslo agreement, and I do not think that many Palestinians believe that the agreement satisfies their national ambitions.

Regarding the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in Wadi al- 'Arabah, we were also surprised, because there was an agreement between us and Jordan on a comprehensive solution and that neither party would sign before the other party reaches an agreement. By the other party we mean the remaining parties—Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Then they [Jordan and Israel] signed in Wadi al-'Arabah and consequently, this signing constituted a separate solution and a departure from the formula of a comprehensive solution on which the Arabs agreed. I believe that such agreements serve Israel and not our interests.

[Khuri] What point have the negotiations reached at this stage?

[Khaddam] Objectively speaking, no progress has been made and the Israelis have not changed their intransigence or their positions, which do not suggest that they are serious about achieving peace.

[Khuri] Are there security conditions that are absolutely unacceptable to Syria?

[Khaddam] To us, withdrawal from the land is the basic factor. second, security arrangements must be equal and even-handed for both parties on the borders. These arrangements should not give any advantage to one party at the expense of the other. If any party really wants further security arrangements, it is the Arab party.

[Khuri] I want to ask a question regarding Lebanon's stance. Lebanon's stance is in total coordination with Syria. Should Israel express readiness to fully withdraw from the Golan provided that the Lebanon situation will be discussed later?

[Khaddam] This is rejected. Syria will not conclude any agreement with Israel if there is no agreement with Lebanon. Any agreement with Lebanon must lead to withdrawal from every inch of Lebanese territory. Lebanon cannot practically conclude any agreement with

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Israel if there is no agreement with Syria. The link between the two tracks is organic in view of the interests of both countries in this link. The people in Syria will not allow us to leave Lebanon alone and to separate the two tracks. Also, the people in Lebanon will not allow the Lebanese Government to separate the two tracks because we are all convinced that cooperation between the two countries will strengthen their stances and even fulfill their aspirations.

[Khuri] Talk about Lebanon brings up the position on the Lebanese resistance now and the Lebanese Government stance on it, and the issue of the party that cooperated with Israel when it invaded Lebanon, specifically speaking, the Lebanese Forces.

[Khaddam] The Lebanese resistance actually began after the Israeli invasion of 1982. Resistance is a legitimate right of every people whose land is occupied. This right is enshrined in the UN Charter and is a normal phenomenon. When the Allies marked the 50th anniversary of their landing in France and their victory over the Nazis, the party that received the representatives of the countries that participated in World War II was a delegation of the French and Belgian resistance. Why should resistance be praised in France and Belgium or any other country and considered terrorism in Lebanon? Occupation of land is an act that runs counter to international law and is an act of aggression against the people. Resistance of aggression is a legitimate right of every people and, consequently the resistance in Lebanon and elsewhere is a legitimate act and must enjoy the backing and support of all those who reject the use of force in international relations or occupation of the land of others. [passage omitted]

TISHRIN Criticizes Israeli Policy, 'Maneuvers'

Terms Israel Arabs' 'Mortal Enemy'

JN0702091695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Established Fact," TISHRIN says: Recent developments in the region have further revealed Israel's ugly face and its aggressive, evil intentions. It is now certain that the Rabin government—and the Shamir government before it—did not join the peace process to achieve peace, but to create the appropriate political and psychological conditions to achieve absolute Israeli hegemony over the Arab nation. Therefore, Israel has spared no method to weaken the Arabs, usurp their minds, damage their vision, and consequently control them.

The paper reviews Israel's policy and the maneuvers of the Israeli Government, as well as its propagation of deceptive and false arguments. Israel's current policy cannot make a real, just peace at all. The Arab public is now convinced that the peace the Rabin government is proposing means the surrender of the Arabs, stripping them of their identity, usurping their rights, and subjecting them to further Zionist suppression and terrorism.

TISHRIN concludes: There is now conclusive evidence that Israel is the Arabs' mortal enemy. Israel covets the Arab lands and resources. Damascus's constructive position is the only foundation for establishing a true, viable peace. The gimmicks and deception of the Rabin government will not undermine this fact and will not hide the truth that Israel is the source of tension, unrest, violence, and terrorism in the region.

Israel 'Fountainhead' of 'Terrorism'

JN0802093795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN's editorial comments on Israel's acts of terrorism, stressing that Israel and terrorism are inseparable twins and two faces of the same coin.

TISHRIN adds: The Arabs are in a position of self-defense. Those whose land is usurped and rights taken definitely have a right to defend them. National resistance is a legitimate right for all nations. All nations on Earth have practiced resistance in the past and at present.

TISHRIN says Israel is a militaristic, terroristic entity that does not give any weight to human rights, principles, and law. Israel is the apex, fountainhead, and cornerstone of terrorism.

TISHRIN says millions of Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese have been driven out of their land by force. Israel refuses to withdraw from their territories and will not allow them to return to their territories to lead a normal life.

The paper concludes: Israel has unmasked its face and said publicly that it does not want to withdraw from the territories it has occupied by force. Israel has also rejected plans for a just and comprehensive peace and adhered to the policy of expansion, aggression, and settlement activity in its relations with the countries of the region. After all of this, has Israel the right to claim that it is a victim of terrorism?

'Palestine' Broadcast Advocates Anti-Israel Armed Struggle

JN0702144095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: The barbaric siege the racist Israeli colonialists are imposing on the

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occupied Palestinian Arab territories continues unabated, without being confronted by international law or being asked by those advocating this law: What are you, O Israelis, doing to defenseless people who are entitled to liberate their homeland, which you are colonizing, mistreating, and persecuting? Such a situation will not push the Palestinian Arab people to despair as some may, in good or bad faith, think. On the contrary, it will push them above despair and hope toward work and even more national work. They will work toward making each step serve two goals: The first is avenging the Israeli terrorism equally and even greater, and the second is liberating the occupied homeland from the Israeli colonialism unconditionally.

What concerns us about this barbaric Israeli siege of the occupied Palestinian Arab homeland lies in two extremely important points. The first is that prior to the Oslo agreement, the occupied Palestinian homeland was an occupied and colonized territory, but after the ill-omened agreement, this occupied territory turned into a mortgaged territory. Every Palestinian citizen became a captive and hostage, and the entire homeland turned into a cell of one large prison. This is, in essence, the Oslo agreement, which cannot be mended by any patching, meeting, wailing, or crocodile tears of the self-rule authority. The second point that is emphasized by the Israeli siege is that the only road for the Palestinian Arab people to achieve their national aims is that of resistance, beginning with stone throwing and ending with the climax of human honor, that is, voluntary martyrdom.

This colonialist Israeli terrorism increases the Palestinian Arab people's faith that the road of resistance and armed struggle is the only road to liberation thus far. Therefore, the Palestinian Arab people are persistently escalating their resistance even if the enemies of justice falsely brand them with terrorism. The ones that fears the charge of terrorism are the real terrorists—like the colonialist Israeli invaders, for example. The heroes of the legitimate national Palestinian resistance scoff at this charge of terrorism and proceed successfully and undeterred along the road. The enemy strikes at them and they return the blow; it sheds their blood and they shed its blood until the end of this road—the road to liberation, self-determination, and the establishment of the free Palestinian Arab state, which cannot be fettered by any of the shackles with which the ill-omened Oslo agreement was written.

Self-Rule Authority Seen 'Helping' Israeli Forces

JN0702081795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the 'Opinion' column under the headline "The Policy of Suppression and Threats and the Self-Rule Authority," AL-BA'TH says: Despite all the meetings in different places between Israeli officials and the self-rule authority, and the attempts by some to end the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces are still imposing a total siege and practicing all kinds of terrorism. The self-rule authority is helping the Israeli forces in this.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has succeeded in utilizing the Oslo agreement to consolidate its occupation of the land of Palestine. Israel has continued—actually has stepped up—settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories. The present situation indicates that the self-rule authority has provided Israel with all the conditions that enable it to achieve its objectives. Prior to the Oslo agreement, these objectives were just a dream. Apparently, Israel is not content with its achievements and will seek to make more achievements in other places. It is now almost certain that some people are now more affectionate toward Israel than their homeland and the sons of its neighbor. What we see and hear nowadays exceeds all limits of imagination and is hard to believe.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In any case, we, along with all honorable people in our beloved country and worldwide, will continue to work very seriously to achieve a just, comprehensive, and viable peace that restores rights.

European Troika Delegation Arrives; Juppe Comments

JN0802084895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A European troika delegation arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. The delegation is led by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who is accompanied by his wife. The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, several Foreign Ministry officials, and the ambassadors of the European Community [EC] in Damascus.

In a statement to a correspondent for the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, Juppe stressed the EU's determination to promote its ties with Syria, as well as his support for the continuation of the Middle East peace process. Juppe added: I have come to Damascus with my Spanish and German counterparts and the EC commissioner to assess our relations with Syria and discuss the situation in the region.

Juppe added: The EU plans to enhance its cooperation with Syria, especially in the economic and financial fields. Naturally, we are concerned about the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. We know that this process is going through a difficult time. I would like to reiterate the EU's support for the peace process.

Juppe noted that the European troika delegation's talks in Damascus will prepare for the European conference with the Mediterranean states, which will be organized

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by the EU in Barcelona next February. He added: I will take the opportunity of my visit to Syria to explain the objectives of this conference to which we would like to invite Syria.

Answering a question on the EU's contribution to the Middle East region, Juppe said: Our current visit is an opportunity to reaffirm our presence and cooperation with Syria and the countries of the region. Of course, the EU is the major economic partner to the countries of the region. Juppe added: The European-Mediterranean conference I have referred to seeks to establish real partnership between the European and Mediterranean states, including Syria.

On the EU's position on Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and whether this will obstruct the peace process in the region, Juppe said: We hope that all countries will join the NPT. We have supported plans that seek to make this region a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The EU is committed to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. This is a very solid and strong commitment.

In a related development, the EC has reiterated its support for all efforts to advance the Middle East peace process. In a statement circulated by the French Embassy in Cairo yesterday on the eve of the visit of the troika delegation to the region, the EC expressed hope that this meeting will pave the road for quick progress in the peace negotiations.

Delegation Urged To 'Influence' Israel

JN0802083895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Peace Process and a Fresh European Role," AL-BA'TH discusses Europe's role in the peace process. The European delegation's tour of the region, which began yesterday, has reactivated the European role. This tour could have special significance for several considerations. First of all, the delegation represents the European Community as a whole, and not one country alone. In addition, the timing of the tour comes at a difficult stage the peace process is going through. This fact cannot be disregarded.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli position is still intransigent. The Rabin government also continues to refuse to comply with the principles of the peace initiative. This government reaffirms daily that it is not committed to full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The efforts being made to break the deadlock in the peace process will remain minimal if they are confined to observation and fact-finding. This is because the formula of a just and comprehensive peace is now as clear as daylight. The troika delegation should act and play an influential role. This role has been almost absent or disregarded. Europe should exercise this role in Israel because Europe knows full well that Israel alone is the party that is obstructing peace efforts.

Al-Shar' Returns From Cairo Meetings

JN0602212395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at his residence in Cairo this afternoon.

Talks addressed the results of the 10th periodic meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories. Developments in the region and fraternal bilateral relations were also discussed.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned from Cairo to Damascus this evening after attending the 10th meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories held in Cairo on 5-6 February.

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Bangladesh

Editorial Views U.S. Restriction of Garments Export

BK0802045695 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 28 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Garments Export"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The DAINIK INQILAB in its issue of 26 January published a report which it received from its Washington Bureau regarding the export of garments from Bangladesh to the United States. This report says that the United States is likely to impose restrictions on the export of industrial goods which are produced by child laborers and also refers to the social movement which has been launched in this regard. The report also referred to the recent statements and activities of the Democrat senator elected from Iowa state, Tom Harkin, who took the main initiative in formulating legislation regarding child labor, and also of the other leaders of this movement in the United States. This report also gave details about the labor-management system prevailing in the countries which produce exportable goods for the United States. In this connection, the statement made by Senator Harkin regarding Bangladesh has been mentioned. This report has hinted that an independent inquiry and monitoring system may be imposed on the Bangladeshi garments industry.

This tendency to link the social movement regarding child labor with production in one of Bangladesh's minor industries has also been observed in the past. This issue has once again come up for discussion. Possibly, the leaders of this movement are aware that this issue is not relevant in the case of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is not a country where there is a shortage of labor. In this country it is not necessary to exploit child laborers, bonded laborers, women laborers, or disabled laborers to reduce the pressure of high wages. The readily available, cheap labor which is found in this country has made labor-intensive industries attractive. The family system in Bangladesh is like an institution of a glorious Asian country. As a result, the number of orphans in this country is less and it is unnecessary for children to lead a life outside their families. Usually, child centers and correction organizations contribute to organized child labor. Such organizations are very rare in this country; in fact, they do not exist at all. In particular, the ratio between the demand for labor in the garment industries and its availability indicates that the issue of child labor is totally illogical. The garment industry is the first and the only production sector in Bangladesh where female workers have an opportunity to work. We do not see that there is any logic in the idea that child laborers are being used in a country where there is abundance of cheap women laborers. Those who try to discover a link between Bangladesh and child labor should carefully study the economic community and the social economy of this country. We want to firmly restate that there is no scope in this country for exploiting child labor by bringing about a disparity in industrial wages. Besides, there is no evidence to prove that people are trying to take this opportunity. Despite this, if this inappropriate social issue is exaggerated by the United States and other economic powers, and if they look for opportunities to reduce the exports of developing countries, then it will be a violation of the agreement on free world trade. It would also be contrary to the Uruguay round of talks on textile exports and a deviation from the provisions of the Multi Fiber Agreement.

Bangladesh is an ally of the United States. There is a consensus of opinion between the two countries on a majority of the issues relating to the world situation. The lofty state principles of democracy and pluralism have brought these two countries politically closer. We are unable to understand what type of idealism is is being pursued by the United States which has initiated a new era of unrestrained economic cooperation with India by giving more importance to economic protectionism than political proximity.

It is essential that this reality should be reflected in the trade and government policy of the United States; partnership in trade is more vital for a respectable relationship than being a recipient of assistance. The foundation of this relationship has been laid after many days of efforts. Neither of the two sides should desire that this relationship be strained due to campaigning by vested quarters. We do not feel that it is necessary to say anything new about the evil effects of the utilization of political ideology in the areas of economy and trade.

India

U.S. Moving To 'Delink' Human Rights, Trade

BK0802041495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Commentary by D. Ravikant]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States is aggressively altering its global agenda in pursuit of economic and trade goals, leaving human rights and democratic issues in cold storage. In fact, Washington wants to turn a blind eye toward nations replete with human rights violations if only they serve its goals of trade and commerce. The U.S. under secretary for commerce, Jeffrey Garten, warned the House Committee on Trade and Commerce yesterday against the tendency to link human rights with trade. He told the committee in no mistakable terms that the U.S. will be the ultimate gainer of the big emerging markets and therefore pleaded not to link human rights with trade and these markets.

The shift in the U.S. strategy in the post-Cold War world became evident last year. After months of strident attack and warning on China's human rights record and threats of revoking the most favored nation status, the Clinton

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administration suddenly changed its course. It agreed to delink trade and the human rights issues. There was ridicule in various capitals about Washington's volte-face. President Clinton's election campaign in 1992, after all, spoke of sanctions against countries erring on the human rights front. Trade and economic issues have been occupying center stage in U.S. strategic initiatives abroad. It has now identified 10 emerging markets world over including India, Indonesia, South Korea, and China for increased U.S. trade and industry presence. Toward nurturing and developing markets in these countries, Garten wants the House committee not to raise issues of human rights. At this stage of international developments, Garten's statement suggests that U.S. needs these countries for the market potential they offer to the American brands.

Of course, this does not mean that the U.S. will tolerate any losses suffered on the trade side. For instance, Washington has now threatened the Chinese Administration of punitive trade sanctions because of the latter's inability to protect the so-called copyright piracy of computer software and films produced in the U.S. But Washington must realize that in its aggressive trade and market penetration abroad it should not resort to trade distortion measures. For instance, the latest criticism leveled by Australia against the U.S. farm subsidies is a pointer in this direction. In order to boost its dairy exports, Washington has stepped up its farm subsidies according to the Australian Trade Ministry. Surely Washington should not throw stones at others when it prefers to sit in a glass house.

Editorial Derides U.S. 'Infatuation' for Pakistan

BK0702150795 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 6 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Mr. William Perry's Infatuation for Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The old American infatuation for Pakistan is rising up once again. While addressing the Defense Policy Council in New York, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry lamented the five-year long sanctions by the U.S. Senate, which are still in effect, on supplying weapons and other sorts of help to Pakistan, lessening U.S. control over Pakistan and creating impediments in the attempt by the United States to reduce the nuclear arms race in the Indian sub-continent. Under the Pressler Amendment, the United States is not allowed to supply weapons to countries which are making atomic weapons. Mr Perry's logic is that when the United States was helping Pakistan, it was able to exert some influence over it; however, since Pakistan is not being helped, the United States has lost that control. Since Mr William Perry has only recently returned home after his foreign visit, his assessment may well represent the authentic U.S. point of view; and it may well be that in the short term India and Pakistan's nuclear programs are not likely to stop. But what is the guarantee the if Pakistan starts to get American weapons again, it will stop its nuclear program? It appears that Pakistan's importance, which declined after the cessation of the Cold War, has been boosted by certain factors. Meanwhile, relations with Iran, Germany, and France have become close, to the great chagrin of the United States, which does not want Iran to become acceptable to the world. Extremist groups in West Asia such as 'Hamas', who have launched a crusade to terrorize Israel, are mostly getting their supplies and aid from Iran. Perhaps the U.S. intention would have been to use Pakistan against Iran. Iran and Pakistan have Shi'ite and Sunni majorities respectively, who are sworn enemies of each other. Thus, in a way it could be said that Pakistan and Iran are enemies. The Pakistan Government has always charged through the media that Iran is instigating her Shi'ites against it. On the Afghan issue also, Iran and Pakistan have bitter differences. Thus, another reason for removing the Pressler Amendment and restarting arms sales to Pakistan could be the immense pressure of the U.S. weapon manufacturers on the Clinton administration. Pakistan has already made full and final payments to the United States for the purchase of the F-16 bombers, but due to the Pressler Amendment, the Clinton administration is unable to supply them. Of course, there could be quite severe limitations genuinely felt by the United States, but it must be remembered that whether in the name of checking the expansion of Russian imperialism or for any other reason, whenever America gives weapons to Pakistan, they will invariably be used against India. Moreover, Pakistan has never been quite obedient to the United States' orders. The United States wanted Pakistan to send its troops to fight in the war in Laos, but despite being a member of SEATO [South East Asia Treaty Organization] Pakistan refused to comply with the demand. Hence, there is no sense in the logic that by resuming the supply of arms to Pakistan, the United States can force it to put a lid on its nuclear program.

As a matter of fact, the effective result of the Pressler Amendment has been to reduce India's defense budget; and Pakistan has also not received its new weapons from the United States. On the other hand, it is U.S. money which has intensified the terrorist fervor in Pakistan, to the great discomfiture of both Afghanistan and India. It is obvious that Mr William Perry is inventing imaginary reasons to resume the supply of arms to Pakistan. He must realize that resumption of U.S. aid to Pakistan will make the people of India again treat the United States as the villain.

Arjun Singh Expelled From Congress-I for 6 Years

BK0702145195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Arjun Singh has been expelled from the Congress-I for six years for antiparty

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activities. The decision was taken by the party Disciplinary Action Committee which met twice in New Delhi today to consider his reply to the show-cause notice.

Congress-I Leaders React

BK0702160495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, has been expelled from Congress-I and all party offices for six years for antiparty activities. The decision was taken by the party's Disciplinary Action Committee, which met under the chairmanship of Mr. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy in New Delhi today. According to the announcement made by the party general secretary, Mr. Janardhan Poojari, the committee rejected the defense of Mr. Arjun Singh and said his reply to the charge sheet served on him was untenable. The committee concluded that Mr. Singh committed a serious breach of discipline by deliberating carrying out propaganda against its [Congress-I] policies and decisions. All members of the DAC, except Mr. A.K. Antony, concluded that Mr. Singh has lowered the prestige of the party.

The chairman of the Disciplinary Action Committee, Mr. Reddy, said the action was necessary to ensure discipline in the party. The vice chairman of the committee, Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, described the decision as painful. Mr. Antony described the expulsion as sad and unfortunate and said he will continue to work for its revocation. He denied reports that he will resign from the Disciplinary Action Committee.

Mr. Arjun Singh has resigned from the Union Cabinet in December. He was suspended from the Congress-I on the 24th of last month for his comments on the party leadership and its decisions on various issues.

Reacting to the expulsion, the Kerala chief minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, said discipline has to be maintained in the party, and all Congressmen will accept the decision. The Uttar Pradesh Congress-I Committee spokesman, Dr. Ramesh Dixit, welcomed the step taken by the high command, saying that this will help enforce discipline in the party. Mr. N.D. Tiwari, however, said the decision should be reconsidered. The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Digvijay Singh, said that the expulsion of Mr. Arjun Singh will not have any fallout on his government. The union welfare minister, Mr. Sitaram Kesari, said the party had no option but to expel Mr. Arjun Singh. The Congress-I parliamentary party secretary, Mr. V. Narayanaswamy, said the step will silence those who are trying to create problems within the party. The Assam Pradesh [State] Congress-I Committee at an emergency meeting held at Guawahati supported the action. The Karnataka Pradesh Congress-I chief, Mr. V. Krishnarao, described the action as a right step. The Nagaland chief minister, Mr. S.C. Jamir, said that the leadership should not be challenged just because the party faced reverses in the recent elections. The Youth Congress-I president, Mr. Maninderjit Singh Bitta, said the action will further strengthen the hands of the Congress-I president. The Delhi Pradesh Congress-I Committee president, Mr. Deep Chand Bandhu, said the expulsion will ensure discipline in the party.

Tiwari Resignation in Uttar Pradesh Viewed

95AS0204B New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 3 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Tiwariji's Retreat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Narashima Rao, in postponing his decision about Uttar Pradesh, has sent Narayan Dutt Tiwari into the group of angered and discontented members of the Congress. Tiwari was given charge of the Uttar Pradesh Congress at a very delicate moment. The members of the Uttar Pradesh Congress were depressed at that time and they were strongly sensing that Narasimha Rao was knowingly dumping the Congress in the Hindi heartland. By sending Narayan Dutt Tiwari to Uttar Pradesh, Narasimha Rao wanted to prove that he does not consider the revitalized Uttar Pradesh and the Congress in northern India a threat to his power at the Center. Aimlessly wandering Narayan Dutt Tiwari took this assignment as a once in a lifetime political challenge and brought the Congress into direct confrontation with the state government of Uttar Pradesh. The agitation for Uttarkhand against Mulayam Singh's government had provided this easy opportunity to the Congress and Narayan Dutt Tiwari. A riot, along with the support of the police and the Samajwadi Party [SP], provided ready ammunition to Narayan Dutt Tiwari. Based on all these incidents, about three months ago, the state Congress Party had adopted a resolution recommending withdrawal of support for the Mulayam government and had sent it to the Congress High Command. Mulayam Singh's strategy, not only deprived Uttar Pradesh of its ruling power but also politically isolated it. The members of the Congress were unanimous in their recommendation to remove Mulayam government, based on which Narayan Dutt Tiwari, in his effort to bring pressure on the Congress High Command, tendered his resignation.

It is beyond doubt that Narayan Dutt's challenge was not only directed to Mulayam Singh but was also for Narasimha Rao. Narasimha Rao's offensive strategy is to conduct elections in Uttar Pradesh along with the 1996 Lok Sabha elections, and to unseat the Mulayam government at the proper time. He feels that it would be helpful in winning more Lok Sabha seats. Narayan Dutt Tiwari's policy on offense has been that by first unseating Mulayam Singh government the Congress can be brought back to power. If the Congress revives in the mid-term elections, Narayan Dutt Tiwari will have a claim to power in Delhi. In addition to the difference between the strategy and objectives of both leaders there is a practical difficulty. Narashima Rao's political modulas operandi naturally hesitates to dismiss Mulayam

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Singh's government. If Mulayam Singh is able to sustain power after the Congress simply takes back its support of Mulayam Singh's government [which occurred last week], this will make the Congress a subject of humiliating jokes. Mulayam Singh's assertion that he can save his government either by enticing Congress members or by making many of his supporters absent during a no confidence resolution cannot be denied. In any case, by declining to make a decision, Narashima Rao has not only angered Narayan Dutt Tiwari but has also given a serious dilemma to the Uttar Pradesh Congress. It leaves it with the choice of either relinquishing its political activeness or revolting against the Congress High Command. Presently its inclination is toward revolt but such is against the Congress nature.

Rao Seen Beholden to Mulayam Singh, Not Congress

95AS0204A Varanasi AJ in Hindi 12 Jan 95 p 6

[Article by R. C. Pandit: "Congress and Mulayam's Political Magic"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] At the office and the residence of the prime minister, it was business as usual in bidding adieu to the past year and in welcoming the congratulatory messages of good wishes for the nation's well being in 1995 but the prime minister and his colleagues, in the inner chamber, were busy devising a political strategy after Narayan Dutt Tiwari's resignation as the party chief in Uttar Pradesh [UP]. [passage omitted] After the news of Tiwari's resignation, the opinion of the associates of the prime minister compelled him to suddenly announce that his political advisor Jitendra Prasad would assume command of the State.

Rao's decision caused discussions not only in political circles but also amongst journalists because during the past four years Rao, as prime minister and [Congress] party leader had never made decisions in such a hurry. Any grass roots reaction on the validity of the decision was not discernable but the politicians were assessing its impact. The allegations made by Arjun Singh in his letter of resignation to the prime minister were discussed in a three hour long central cabinet meeting held at the residence of the prime minister and were rejected. It was also decided to notify the Congress (I) working committee of this decision but the date for the next working committee meeting was uncertain. One opinion states that the issues listed by Arjun Singh and the issues raised by Narayan Dutt Tiwari on the Uttar Pradesh matter have not been discussed. Narayan Dutt Tiwari, however, says that he has raised these issues. The party spokesman Mr. Gadgil, known for his clear thinking, says the issues were discussed and the party president has been authorized to decide the Uttar Pradesh issues. [passage omitted]

The Delhi politicians believe that Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mulayam Singh's political magic has fully charmed the power brokers in Delhi. As a result the party is experiencing a divisive phase not only in Uttar Pradesh but also in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Congress party workers say that the actions of the central command will knowingly compel them to make decisions which may endanger the party's future. The leaders of the opposition say that the prime minister's action in appointing his own political counsellor Jitendra Prasad as the Uttar Pradesh party chief will coerce him to involve the manipulations of his colleagues. The discontented old guard subscribe to the theory that in fact Jitendra Prasad's appointment is a group specific's conspiracy to capture state party chief positions in other states. The same leaders, for example, say that recent state party chief appointments in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar were made with this theory in mind. Within the same thought process, the belief that the prime minister also wanted to get rid of Jitendra Prasad as his political advisor is considered invalid. Political analysts are not ready to accept this; instead it is said that Jitendra Prasad was ambitious to get that position. The question is if the party president was unwilling to offer him this position in the past why did he do it now? If this logic is considered true then it is in fact due to Mulayam Singh's magic because the timing of the story of Tiwari's resignation, the announcement of the Central Bureau of Investigaton's [CBI] inquiry report and Mulayam Singh's meeting with the prime minister can lend some light to unriddle this secret. The decision must have been the result of Mulayam Singh's manipulation; otherwise why would the prime minister have made this decision in such a haste?

It will be noteworthy to watch what steps Jitendra Prasad will take to undo the support lent to the Uttar Pradesh government. The public has the fallacy that if Mr. Rao had compelled the followers of Tiwari to accept Jitendra Prasad's leadership then after sometime he would, through Jitendra Singh announce the withdrawal of support extended to Mulayam Singh [done last week], and make Jitendra Singh a hero instead of Tiwari. Political analysts hold this step taken by the party command to be a fatal mistake, and those who display anger about this issue, including distinguished leaders from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar have vowed not to go easy.

Signals were picked up here in Delhi circles that each successive day senior Congress leaders were getting confident of Mr. Rao's modus operandi on the question [of supporting the Uttar Pradesh government]. A few days ago Mr. Rao had regarded Mr. Tiwari to be the right person to revitalize the Uttar Pradesh Congress (I) organization, and Mr. Tiwari had developed a complete plan, results of which were visible. What then, all of a sudden, happened that Mr. Jitendra Singh, about whom several rumors are prevalent in Delhi, is being dispatched and not Tiwari?

The prominent members of Congress from Bihar question what thoughts Mr. Rao must be harboring in regard

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to the future of the Hindi heartland states. He should have been sensitive to the sentiments of members of the Congress during these difficult days. If the Uttar Pradesh Party chief was fully authorized by the state Congress (I) to proceed to withdraw the support given to Mulayam Singh's government then why did the Party High Command not only bypass an established dedicated party leader but supercede his [Tiwari's] opinion and get a front developed against him by a person [Jitendra Singh] who is neither a proven soldier of the Congress nor has made any sacrifice (for the party)? These discussions were held in meetings which, it is said, were attended by Sonia Gandhi. At the time when Tiwari renounced his position, Arjun Singh tendered his resignation and Jagganath Mishra of Bihar openly presented his [dissenting] opinion.

Recently Mr. Arjun Singh, Mr. Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Mr. Kalapnath Rai, and prominent Congress leaders from several states which included the chiefs of the southern states sought open blessings from Sonia Gandhi to save the century old Congress from breaking up by assuming its command. [passage omitted]

The emerging grass root opinion is that the Congress Constitution is not in any danger by the effort to revive the Congress by Arjun Singh, Tiwari, Mishra, Kidwai, Pawar, Rammurti, Mathur, Veerbhadra Singh, and leaders of the former youth wing. This is because each member of the Congress, in spite of diversity, is ready to face the challenge during tough times. To obtain this objective, these leaders who are called rebellious due to the wave of discontent, have decided to postpone their plans until the results of the [current] Vidhan Sabha elections are declared because they do not want to provide an opportunity to the Party High Command to blame the existing discontented members of the state party organizations for the defeats, as they have done in the case of Karnataka and Andhra.

Editorial Views Election Plan for Kashmir

BK0802143395 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 4 Feb 95 p 8

[Editorial: "To poll or not to poll"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government's plan to hold Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before the current phase of President's rule expires is no doubt a laudable intention, not least because it indicates New Delhi's commitment to restore popular rule in the troubled State. But the Government would be well-advised to consider the situation very carefully before finalising the dates for elections. While there has been a perceptible decline in terrorist activity in the Valley, this should not be seen as a defeat for the separatists and other malcontents. True, the security forces have succeeded to a large extent in weeding out terrorists and their sympathisers and the people have begun to tire of the violence that has severely affected their lives. But it should be borne in mind that the terrorists have struck with impunity in Jammu which was till recently considered safer than the Valley.

The Government, if it persists with its plan to hold elections by July 18, will obviously be banking upon the voters of Jammu and Ladakh to turn out in large numbers in order to make it a legitimate exercise. An extremely low voter turnout, which is a possibility in the Valley, will be immediately denounced by Pakistan and other sympathisers of the separatists as a farce. A low turnout in the Valley can be partially offset by a high turnout in Ladakh and Jammu, but if the separatists persist with acts of terror like the explosions that killed many people on Republic Day, voters in these regions may not enthusiastically participate in the electoral process. To avoid this possibility, the Government will have to step up vigil in both Jammu and Ladakh and ensure that the terrorists are unable to expand their area of activity beyond the Valley. Doda and some other places have already been infiltrated by the terrorists because of lax security.

The Government will also have to ensure that the displaced Pandits, who have been thrown out of their homes in the Valley and have sought refuge in Jammu and elsewhere in the country, are able to exercise their franchise. Anything to the contrary will be a gross violation of the rights of the Pandits who have suffered tremendously and whose plight has been by and large ignored by the Government. There is also the contentious issue of delimitation and revision of electoral rolls. Officials deputed for this job have shown great reluctance after being threatened with dire consequences by the terrorists. Given this backdrop, elections in Jammu and Kashmir at this stage could turn out to be as disastrous as the 1983 elections in Assam. But then, it can also be argued that the Government's gamble in Punjab has paid rich dividends.

Editorial Opposes Monetarist Moves on Inflation

BK0702140695 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 7 Feb 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Praying for a Drought"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Governor of the Reserve Bank had forecast some months ago that inflation this year would be seven per cent, and that the growth in money supply would be 16 per cent. Both are running about four per cent above his forecast. The record of inflation this year threatens to be even worse than last year, which was no shining success. The Indian economy may well have overcome the Hindu rate of growth of 3.5 per cent, but in the meanwhile it is acquiring a liberalised rate of inflation of 11 per cent. The Reserve Bank is naturally exercised about inflation: and has brought out its monetarist bible, and applied the prescribed remedy of raising interest rates. It has raised the government's borrowing rates to unprecedented levels. It has not thereby reduced the growth of money supply. The main

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factor behind monetary expansion is trade credit, and the Reserve Bank must have qualms about nipping an industrial upturn in the bud. So it is trying indirect means - raising bill and bond rates, and whispering to banks that it would not be a good idea to offer competitive lending rates to industry. However, none of its financial jugglery is likely to have the slightest effect on inflation. Profit margins have recovered to such levels that marginal increases in banks' lending rates are unlikely to affect credit much; besides, bank credit forms a very small part of finance for investment, the bulk coming from reinvested profits, public issues and long-term loans. Monetarist nostrums are ineffective in these conditions.

The government is neglecting the obvious remedies. The industrial boom is in its infancy; it is a mistake to nip it off so early. The government itself needs the boom to raise employment and productivity. Hence it is wrong to take measures against demand, and especially against investment demand, such as the ones the Reserve Bank has been taking. This inflation is for the government to tackle; leaving it to the Reserve Bank will not restrain inflation, but will certainly damp down growth. Inflation should be combated this time by augmenting supply and reducing costs; and the government has two powerful weapons to do this. One is food stocks. They are so huge that they are rotting in the open. The wheat harvest is only two months away; unless the government gets rid of some stocks it will be faced with the prospect of wheat mountains for rats to devour and rains to spoil. Foodgrain stocks should be quickly auctioned and foodgrain prices substantially brought down within the next four months. This is not just economic sense but also political wisdom, for far more consumers of wheat and rice are going to vote than producers. A fall in market prices will make it necessary to mark down procurement prices as well, if the government does not want to be deluged in wheat; but that too is warranted by the long-term foodgrain prospects. The other means is import liberalisation. Inflation this year is not confined to primary products; industrial goods are experiencing equally high rates of inflation. Metal prices have risen rapidly; more recently, agricultural raw materials such as tobacco and rubber have led the way. Abolition of the negative list and a drastic reduction of tariffs would go far in restraining prices.

Inflation has been running high for months, and the remedies suggested here have also been long evident. But the government has been paralysed by uncertainties and fears. If it waits long enough, the most effective anti-inflationary device may well turn out to be a drought, which would force the government to disgorge its enormous food stocks and thereby disinflate the economy.

Article Urges Regional Trade Cooperation

BK0602162495 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 3 Feb 95 p 4

[Article by Praful Bidwai: "Why SAPTA is an Imperative"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One feature of the Confederation of Indian Industry centenary was the obsession it revealed among sections of Indian businessmen and policy-makers with the possibility of India joining APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Council], or at least ASEAN. However, India is geographically, economically and politically too distant from the Pacific or Southeast Asia to fit into APEC or ASEAN. Longing to join them is a sign of immaturity. Unfortunately, the debate, such as it was, did not trigger off a discussion on exploring what could be done to transform India's relations with its neighbours in its "natural" setting. Such a discussion is important for two reasons. First, regional trade blocs have become critical components of the economic strategies of nations in the last quarter of the century, and are likely to gain importance in the coming decades. And second, because the South Asian record in this regard is abysmal; this in and of itself calls for a powerful initiative for closer economic cooperation, in particular a preferential trade arrangement.

Today, West Asia-North Africa and South Asia are the only two regions of the world which have failed to make any progress in that direction. They also happen to be the only two regions in which war, trans-boundary tension and strategic hostility remain endemic. This is not a coincidence. Intra-region economic cooperation has become hostage to their usually antagonistic strategic relations. There is a powerful case for demilitarising these economic relations. I argue that India, or rather, Indians, must take the initiative here.

South Asia today presents a gloomy picture of poor economic links between countries that share a great deal in common and which are home to the largest concentration of the world's poor. Intra-region trade only accounts for about five per cent of their total trade. In the case of India, the percentage is as low as 3.7. Intra-region investments are too small to count. And other kinds of supporting links, e.g. cooperation in agriculture or science and technology, are remarkably weak even in comparison with links with some other Third World countries, e.g. China or Iran. This is so despite the fact that the economies of the region are in many ways complementary. Where the similarity is strong, i.e. in primary commodities such as jute and tea between India, and Bangladesh and Sri Lanka respectively, there arise possibilities for joint strategies for price and quota negotiations with the North, and for freer trade at the regional level (so that, Pakistan, for instance, does not have to import tea from Kenya). This is equally true of, say, textiles, where Pakistan has a more developed mill industry, but India better access to Northern markets. There are scores of specific areas, e.g. iron and steel, cement, automobile ancillaries, light electrical machinery and power generation equipment, as well as consumer durables and software exports, where South Asian cooperation could produce dramatic results.

South Asia starts with several advantages: common languages, similar and compatible (if poorly funded and

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managed) communications, a common history of railway and port development (the broad gauge is unique to the region), common standards and measures, similar agricultural practices, broad parallels in bio- mass dependence. While there are big disparities in technical skills and skill development facilities, these can be turned into an advantage by encouraging exchanges of students and teachers. Even the sharing of engineering or managerial expertise (where Pakistan may in some respects be ahead of India), or helping establishment of R&D facilities (where India and Sri Lanka may have more to offer) or, even more significant, pooling and exchange of plant genetic resources and seed banks, could yield highly productive results. So can joint work in renewable energy systems. Some of these possibilities have been listed, although not seriously pursued, in work undertaken by the G-15 South-to-South cooperation programme. However, we have not yet even begun to explore them in the South Asian context.

The principal obstacle here is the highly problematic Indo-Pakistan relationship which has now reached its lowest peacetime point. Hostility on Kashmir and the nuclear issue, and continuing disputes over the border, and numerous other sources of tension have more or less wrecked normal diplomatic relations, and induced New Delhi and Islamabad to view forums such as SAARC with suspicion. In some ways, this is a hangover from the Cold War, in which New Delhi saw SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]—and it bears mentioning, ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations]—as part of a US strategy and Pakistan saw SAARC as a forum in which to neutralise India's overbearing presence. To add to this was India's disastrous peace-keeping operation in Sri Lanka, which generated hostility—another negative influence on SAARC.

The time has come to depoliticise and demilitarise intra-South Asian relations. The key lies in the India-Pakistan equation. Here, it should be evident, neither government is likely to make a positive move that can really break the present impasse. If this was extremely difficult shortly after Benazir Bhutto came to power, then current domestic factors, including instability in both countries, will make it even more so in coming months. An indecisive, crisis-ridden Narasimha Rao government, which could well be on its last legs after March, is unlikely to summon up the courage to normalise relations with Pakistan. Similarly, a beleaguered Bhutto government, faced with volatile ethnic unrest and relentless pressure on Kashmir, will be loathe to make the right moves. However, the impetus could, and should, come from the sub-state, indeed citizen, level. It seems likely that state-to-state responses will not improve without that impetus. Several groups in society have a stake in such improvement. Sensible peace-loving citizens are fast losing their patience with constant sniping between the two governments and their inability to prevent the steady degeneration of relations and breakdown of diplomacy. Businessmen have a stake in exploring markets in the region, and promote cooperation in R&D and trade. Scientists and educators have an interest in improved access to one another. And those connected with culture and the media strongly favour free exchange and unfettered visits.

A strong citizens' constituency is already emerging. It has taken the shape of what is called "Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy", which is planning to organise a people-to-people dialogue on February 24 and 25 in New Delhi. The participants include a hundred Pakistanis and an equal number of Indians, including intellectuals, artistes, social and human rights activists, environmentalists, businessmen and concerned citizens. This constituency deserves a chance. Citizens in both India and Pakistan have a great deal to gain from a "detente from below", freer exchanges and, above all, from peace. If India were not to buy the 20 MiG-29s it has ordered, it could give basic education to all the 15 million girls out of school. If Pakistan cancelled purchases of French military aircraft, it could provide safe drinking water to all the 55 million who lack it, essential medicines to 13 million people, and education to 12 million children out of school. These facts need to be publicised and highlighted time and again to promote a people's detente. The initiative is an important step in that direction. That is why all enlightened and concerned citizens should give it support.

Commentary Views Entry Into Global Space Market

BK0602014395 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Commentary by P.K. Verma; monitored in progress]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ... The INTELSAT is leasing a satellite outside its fleet for the first time in its three-decade old history. INTELSAT is an international intergovernmental cooperative organization with 133 members and (?owns) and operates the world's most extensive global communication satellite system with a network of 22 satellites. India is the 10th largest stockholder of INTELSAT with an investment share of 2.1 percent and is among the 22 members of its board of governors and an influential one at that. [as heard] In fact, the deal comes only 30 years to the day India became an INTELSAT member. Commenting on the significance of the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization]-INTELSAT agreement, Chairman of ISRO, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, said that it represented his organization's firm commitment to develop innovative solutions to satisfy the capacity requirement of its expanding customer base. It not only heralds the arrival of India on the global satellite scene in a big way, but also puts it stamp of quality on its space program. The satellite INSAT-2 E which will lease out its spare transponders to INTELSAT will be launched in 1997. It will be more sophisticated one than what ISRO had built so far. India has come on the scene at just the right time. Space on satellites is at a

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premium and transponders over the Asia-Pacific are particularly in great demand. The intergovernmental INTELSAT grabbed the opportunity.

An interesting side light is that close on the heels of the agreement, the U.S.-based Earth Observation Satellite—EOSAT—has also signed a similar agreement with India on Thursday as part of a 10-year program that includes eight earth observing satellites to be launched between now and the year 2005. This back-to-back achievement indicates that the world is now willing to give India due recognition and a space power. India can hope to benefit from these agreements in several ways. First, it will provoke ISRO fine tune its expertise even further to meet the requirements of the international giants—INTELSAT and EOSAT—which only operate the world's most expensive communication satellite system. Secondly, a collaboration with INTELSAT and EOSAT may also help in updating its own technology. Further, the collaboration can also remove many of the misgivings and apprehensions about India's space program in certain quarters.

The present deal with INTELSAT and EOSAT is not the first for ISRO. Technologies developed by ISRO scientists have already been commercially sold in India and abroad by the government owned company (Entreks) Corporation. There is a great demand internationally for the pictures taken by India's Remote Sensing satellites—IRS-1 A and 1 B. Last year, ISRO sold to EOSAT the right to receive data from IRS-1 B and market the pictures in the United States.

The pace with which ISRO is entering the global space market is an indication that India's satellite technology has matured. This is why Malaysia recently sought collaboration with ISRO for the fabrication of two micro satellites. The success of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle—PSLV—last year is an evidence of ISRO's potential to become a vendor of launching services for small satellites. And now, the alliance with INTELSAT and EOSAT will catapult India as one of the major satellite forces in South Asia.

Iran

Khamene'i Assails UK, U.S. in Sermon

LD0302153595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0842 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] In this sermon I want to have a look at this great revolution. Of course, since the outset of the revolution many people have spent thousands of hours speaking about this topic; from our beloved Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, who pioneered this righteous path, to all other individuals who have traversed on this path and have somehow contributed to it. Naturally, a careful study of all these is a useful and effective exercise.

Here, I need to stress that we, the Iranian nation, who have felt this revolution with all our being, have studied this phenomenon much less than foreigners who from far and near have managed to establish some kind of relation with this revolution. In the midst of these foreigners, there have been—and still are—some individuals who have invariably adopted a biased attitude toward this subject matter.

Right now, hefty sums of money amounting perhaps to billions [currency not specified] are spent so that these enemies can get their voice across to our nation. The question is what do they want to say? They want to say the things that have been negated and refuted by the revolution. In pursuit of their aim, they even resort to false interpretations of the revolution.

We must actually confess that the enemies of the revolution have carried out much more analysis of the revolution than we ourselves have done. Their aim is of course to doctor the message of the revolution and distort the truth that is before our eyes today. Therefore, what we ourselves have said about the revolution has to be collated and indexed. These then have to undergo the proper cultural and educational work, and this has not happened to a sufficient degree yet. This is necessary in order to ensure that our youth are not in any way prevented from learning the truth. They should read what the great personalities and the spokesman of the revolution have said.

Today I want to raise a few issues concerning the revolution. One point that has been debated rather less frequently is that our great revolution was unique in the sense of the quality of its victory. This is to say we had a revolution that enjoyed a magnificent great popular dimension since it was carried out in the presence of the people on the streets and in towns and villages. It was carried out by the people who set out to wage a struggle against the ruling regime. Such a course of struggle was unique, at least as far as the other revolutions of our time were concerned. All the other revolutions that had taken place in different parts of the world, including the leftist and Marxist revolutions in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, were of a totally different nature. Our revolution, thus, was entirely unique.

Our revolution did not achieve victory because of a single partisan group. There were of course parties in Iran that used to carry out armed struggle and partisan activities. However, around the mid 1970's they had been rendered totally ineffective. You can ask those who were present on the scene in those days. We saw these things with our own eyes.

All groups and grouplets who used to carry out armed struggle in Iran in those days, whether they had Marxist or eclectic ideologies, had been driven out of the arena.

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All they could do at the time was to detonate a bomb somewhere or assassinate a certain individual.

All the events of that period in Iran were not even one tenth of what is happening in some Arab countries today. I do not wish to name any of the Arab countries so as to offend anyone. You hear that in some Arab countries the Muslims are engaged in a struggle and are clashing with the police. I want to say that these struggling Arab Muslims are much closer to victory than we were in those days. In Iran of those days it was an impossible dream even to think that a partisan and guerrilla war would ever achieve victory. We did not win by staging a coup d'etat either.

Sometimes a revolutionary government comes to power through a coup d'etat. On that day, the Armed Forces personnel had been confined by the Americans within a totally closed framework. That is, there were many members of the Armed Forces, particularly the younger ones and lower rank officers, who were unhappy with the sinister monarchist regime, but no one could even dare think about confronting the regime. As a comparison, we can refer to the fate of the Iraqi Armed Forces today. The Armed Forces in Iraq today are completely trapped in the claws of the ruling power. However, the Iranian Armed Forces personnel in those days were even more trapped than the members of the Iraqi Armed Forces today. This is because the Iranian Armed Forces of that period were being watched by a dominating power authority as well as by the American elements inside the Armed Forces. There were several thousand American personnel working in most of the Iranian barracks, particularly in the sensitive barracks and some Army units. Therefore, there was no chance whatsoever of staging a military coup d'etat in those days.

In Iran of that era there were a few political parties, but they were so weak. Thanks to the freedom and generosity of the Islamic regime today, the gentlemen from the same weak parties of the past era are giving interviews all the time and are releasing party circulars to accuse the Islamic Republic of suppression. These gentlemen were living in those days too, but they never did anything that could be interpreted as a step toward Iran's liberation. Some of these gentlemen were even close friends of the statesmen and aristocrats of the Pahlavi court. They used to have drink parties to enjoy on another's company. Their heads were down feeding from the same manger. Some of them had started a business. There were engineers and specialists among them working with the Pahlavi regime, but they were wary of ever challenging the regime. All the individuals I mentioned tolerated what was happening in those days. They waited until the Islamic revolution gained victory. Praise be to Allah, in the wake of this victory, the political climate opened. All the people became politically aware and even those gentlemen of the weak parties found out that they have tongues to utter words. However, the Iranian people do not trust these political parties and ignore them. These parties are suffering from the complex of being ignored and seek to blame the Islamic Republic Government instead. My dear fellows! it is not our fault that the people ignore your political parties and do not trust you. Who is stopping the people? [congregation chants slogans in support of Khamene'i and his remarks]

The best of these political parties at that time were parties that had two or three brave people in them, and these people would issue a declaration about this or that thing. These declarations were not even distributed among the public at large. They would be distributed only among their supporters. For example, 1,000 copies of a declaration would be distributed. It would be a protest against something. Then, they would be arrested and put in prison. They would remain in prison for some time and then be released. They would either be released after being interviewed or when their prison term was over. These were the best of the lot. Their activities and their declarations created no echo whatsoever among the Iranian nation.

The Iranian nation was a religious nation; devoted to the clergy; devoted to the ulema. This is exactly what became the focal point of the huge explosion of the Iranian nation against the cruel regime of the shah. There existed a source of emulation who was unanimously accepted by everyone; an accepted and esteemed clergyman who was well understood by everyone who knew him. He had enemies as well, but even they admitted that he was a good man. They would just mention a fault such as, for example, he ignored us in such and such a place or he believes in this or that philosophical idea; however, he is a good man, he is a pious man.

An individual possessing a high level of knowledge, a high degree of piety, and, most important of all, benefiting from God's assistance, entered the arena. In the course of 15 years, he gained the support of some students, some colleagues, some other sources of emulation [marja']. When the people saw that they were a group of ulema, trustworthy individuals, they also entered the arena, a few at a time at first; then, in larger and larger numbers and, finally, everyone en masse. They entered the arena.

In 1977-1978 we were sent into exile to various towns. It was in the autumn of 1978 that we returned from exile. When I entered Mashhad after my exile I could not believe what I saw even though we did hear the news when we were in exile. However, the reality was awesome. There were marches in Mashhad 24 hours a day. I realized that the people had become accustomed to taking part in marches. It was the same everywhere. Tehran was the focal point, then came other large towns, then smaller towns; even in villages. What were these marches? for example, an announcement would be made at a gathering by a central base or by the Imam, who was in Paris at that time, or by senior clergymen in Tehran or in another town. The people would pour into the streets in waves. Gradually, even organizations affiliated with

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the government joined these people; civil servants joined; soldiers joined; officials joined. Well, that is what the disintegration of a regime means. The monarchical regime disintegrated.

On the day when Mohammad Reza fled Iran, the regime had already collapsed. He realized there was no point in remaining. They created a kind of statue out of a poor, despised wretch, who became even more despised as a result, in order to hang on for a few more days. He was there for 30, 40 days. Then, the Imam returned and, with a wave of his hand, the whole thing collapsed. The monarchical system had become rotten and hollow in Iran. Why? Because of the people's presence. Why were the people present? Because of religion, because the leaders were Islamic leaders, because they were clergymen, because they were trusted by the people.

There were many people among the masses who helped the clergymen, who made suggestions to them; in some towns, they even advised the clergymen. What drew the people, however, was that they were led by the clergy, headed by the eminent Imam, who was a source of emulation, a senior theologian. They came because they saw this man, senior ulema, and recognized clergymen. That was how the revolution came about.

Well, as you can see, this was an exceptional revolution; a revolution arising from the presence of the people and a presence arising from the people's religious beliefs. Otherwise, there were political activists as well. We had meetings and links with them of course; even the guerrilla groups, left wing, communist, opposition groups. They were all in contact with us, whether from prison or from outside. They were friendly with us. We used to see each other. All of them admitted in one voice that the situation that had come about would not have been possible in Iran other than through the leadership of someone like the Imam and other than with those religious slogans [congregation chants slogans]

Please let me continue. That was the subject I wished to discuss about the revolution. What I said was the fact that everyone could see. Any fair analyst would say what I said. Everyone during the first days of the revolution used to say the same, except a few presumptuous and impudent members of the mini-groups who were freed from prisons by the people in the course of the revolution. They had been imprisoned by the shah's regime for four or five years and perhaps longer. As soon as they were freed, they raised their flags to lead the people. But the people tore their flags and threw them away. They become angry with the people from that moment. They turned against the people and decided to shed innocent blood by planting bombs in the people's houses, shops, and public thoroughfares of Tehran and other places. Apart from these stubborn and intransigent individuals, who refuse to accept the facts, everyone else could see the truth by looking at it.

Of course, we must say that many factors helped to realize the revolution victory. Anyone who uttered one word helped the revolution by one word. No doubt about this. But there is a difference between helping the revolution by one word, by hundred words, or even by one book and by staging a revolutionary wave to realize victory. There is no comparison at all. It is the same as the old story about a group of 100 pilgrims cooking a soup. Suddenly a man came with a tiny leg of a grasshopper. He dropped the leg in the soup and said: This is my contribution to the communal soup and you should pour me a large bowl of soup.

There were some individuals who had uttered a word in support of the revolution in some obscure place. Afterward, they came and claimed that they were the revolutionary leaders. Of course every individual member of the nation had contributed to the revolution. The revolution belongs to them all. These people put their lives in front of the enemy's firing line. What devotion could be higher? Let us suppose someone like me delivered speeches on a thousand occasions. Do my speeches equal the value of a man's life? There were some who gave their life. A man who sacrificed his life is ahead of us. To be fair, that is what we must say. This was one fact about the revolution.

Another issue that follows the above is this: Well, a revolution such as this has been set into motion; a revolution that arose among the masses, through the will of the people under the leadership of a leader who relied entirely on the sentiments of the people and who was loved devotedly by the people. What does such a revolution do?

The first thing that such a revolution does is to remove the unjust concessions that foreigners had gained in this country over many years. This is obvious. Anyone who loves their country is unhappy to see, for example, that the British Government is plundering Iranian oil. This is self-evident. Any patriotic person would be upset about this. There were even many statesmen in the past, including deputies in the former national assembly [Majlis]—during its first few terms, before Reza Shah interfered in the Majlis, when deputies really represented the people and were elected by them—many of them opposed those concessions. There were even many members of the government, truly patriotic and nationalistic people, who did not wish to grant concessions, but they did not dare say so; they did not dare. Why? Because they did not have the people behind them. They did not enjoy credibility among the people.

The moment a prime minister would try to give the slightest hint of any suggestion that may have been against the interests of foreigners in the slightest way, he would be removed immediately. He would be sent packing!

If it were the case that the person was a stubborn fighter, like the late Modarres, may God be satisfied with his deeds, faced with a bully such as Reza Khan, he would be destroyed, beaten up, sent into exile, imprisoned, and martyred while fasting during the month of Ramadan.

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The ones who did not have the bravery of Modarres, who did not have his strong faith—if they said the slightest thing, a mere dirty look from the masters in foreign embassies would suffice to silence them. This was how concessions to foreigners grew by the day in Iran.

Ladies and gentlemen; my dear brothers and sisters: In this country, a source of wealth called oil was discovered. Please pay attention: it is just like a nation discovering a treasure. And as soon as this treasure was discovered in this country, a group of foreigners—mainly British, the British are responsible for this crime—came to Iran and sat on this treasure. For years, they extracted oil from this treasure and did not even raise an eyebrow that this was usurping the Iranian people's treasure.

We should not be sorry about this [as heard]. The issue of oil is really an extremely bitter issue for the people of Iran. This issue has not become clear yet. They came and made deals with the traitors ruling Iran during the Qajar period [dynasty preceding the Pahlavis]. I believe the first D'Arcy treaty [on oil between Britain and Persia] was to last for 60 years. The treaty stipulated that Britain could come and for 60 years take oil that it needed—just as a human being needs drinking water. This is because it was colonizing the world, they needed money, to get money you need factories and the factories needed oil. This was really valuable to them. They took oil from Iran and at what price? It was even cheaper than barrels of water. The treaty was to last 60 years.

And then they brought Reza Khan to power. The British brought him to power. [passage omitted]. After a few years, Reza Khan thought he might be able to get a bit more money out of the British for our oil. Of course, he was obedient to them but in the end, any servant once in a while thinks he can get a bit more out of his master. Because he was a bully by character, he entered the cabinet room and threw the oil treaty in the fire—the very same D'Arcy treaty. Thirty years were still left in the D'Arcy treaty. He said: What sort of a treaty is this, they should give us more. And his opponent was a company, a British company [Anglo-Iranian Oil Company]

As soon as he said this, the British Government entered the scene, shouting and screaming. The British rubbed the bully Reza Khan's nose in the dirt. They made Reza Khan renew the treaty for another 60 years, there was only 30 years left of the original treaty. This is what the British did regarding our oil.

And this went on until Mossadeq's era and Dr. Mossadeq's uprising. This treaty was renounced. And then the coupist government took power. Again the British came, this time with the Americans. The Americans entered the arena in 1332 [1953-54].

Let me say this: If the people of Iran have not wiped out and do not wipe out their loathing and hatred for the British Government from their hearts, any intelligent person would say the Iranian people are right. What the British did to the Iranian people, the pestilence that the British brought on the Iranian people ...[sentence unfinished]... this very same tyrannical and oppressive government.

The same lot who sit here today in a corner of the world and continue to utter those biased and empty words against the government and people of Iran. They have forgotten what they have done to the Iranian people. Of course, God Almighty smacked them one and took power from them. Today the British do not have any honor or power in the world.

As soon as the Americans felt that the arena was empty and that the British could not enter the arena alone, they arrived in 1332. Up until the Islamic revolution, Britain and America grabbed the oil wells. They took as much as they possibly could. And you want the people of Iran to forgive them?

Well, the Pahlavi regime was in their hands. Mohammad Reza [the Shah] was really acting as an American agent in Iran, an American agent. He would replace prime ministers at their whim. And if he wanted to remove a certain prime minister and the Americans were not happy with this, he would go to America and say: We have given this, we have given that. He would talk to everyone until they allowed him to remove or appoint this or that premier. This was the situation. The ambassadors of America and Britain in Tehran were the ones who decided the basic course of this nation.

Do you understand why the Americans are so angry now? Do you understand now that when the American statesmen of today go around the world, especially their ugly and repugnant secretary of state—saying: We want to put pressure on Iran so that it changes its policies—do you understand what these policies are that they want to change? They don't want these policies. These were the same people that one day...[pauses]...the Shah of Iran, the person who was called the Shah of Iran, that dishonorable, poor person used to listen to the ambassadors of America and Britain. He carried out whatever they wanted regarding the fundamental issues of this country.

And now they are facing a government and a system which, out of 100 factors in its policy-making for essential issues, not one of them is in line with the wishes of the American Government. They are facing a system which has come and as its first task, cut the concessions to them. The first thing that the revolution did was do break their concessions. [Crowd chants in support: "God is great! Khamene'i is the leader! Death to America"]

Very well, that was one fact about this revolution. Please pay attention. The second point, which we have already referred to, is that as this revolution brought a kind of system to power which was from the people—that was because the revolution itself relied on the people, because the leader of the revolution was loved by the people and the people were behind him—it did not hesitate and immediately severed the concessions which

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had been given to foreigners. Of course we did not sever our relations with America immediately as the revolution took place. At the beginning of the revolution we maintained our relations with America for months; only the concessions given to America were cut off. They wanted to take advantage of our oil; we said it was impossible. They wanted to take advantage of the unfair investments made by the Iranian Government which they benefited from; we said that was impossible. They wanted to maintain a presence in our army and in particular the air force; we said that was impossible. They wanted to actively maintain their spying apparatus, that is their former embassy here [in Tehran]; we said that was not possible either. Please note that their embassy was open for months after the victory of the revolution and they had a charge d'affaires and other officials there. Then, when the young Muslim students went and took over the embassy, they realized that the embassy had turned into a point of contact with elements who opposed the revolution and the Islamic Republic. It had turned to a place for getting and giving, supporting, making contacts between this and that—exactly what the British embassy did in Iran before the 28 Mordad [1953, date of toppling of Mossadeq in a coup]. They would see this and that, make contacts between this and that, provide money to this person, give that person arms, provide that other person with information—until they were able to create an incident against the Islamic revolution. Very well, that is the kind of activity they were engaged in. Very well, the Iranian nation named their embassy: the den of spies. That was the fact. Indeed it had turned to a den of spies.

My second point is this: The Islamic revolution cut off the interests of America and Britain in Iran. And these two countries were the ones that had extensive, unjust, and illegitimate interests in our country. They were cut.

Of course, we have kept our relations with the world. And today we do have political relations with Britain. However, I believe these relations are fragile because the British cannot stop themselves expressing their enmity. Every once in a while they sting us. This is how the British Government works.

I believe it would be better for the British Government to be a bit more careful about Iran, since it has a bad record in Iran, a black record. Now that the people of Iran and the government of Iran have kept some sort of ties with that country—political ties—well, they should act extremely carefully. They should not say anything to make the Iranian people think that they [the British] have kept the ill intentions of the previous few decades. In any case, the Britain of today is not the Britain of those days, it has ended.

One of the most important characteristics of this revolution was that it gave the Muslims of the world a sense of pride and dignity. This is a reality. Muslims across the globe, whether they were part of the Muslim nations, governments or merely Muslim dignitaries, used to feel passive and they reserved no value for themselves and their mission. [passage omitted]

It was under such conditions, that is when Islam did not have much of a presence, that Iran's Islamic revolution attained victory. With this victory, all alert and aware Muslims all over the world felt as though they had achieved power and integrity.

During the recent years, in particular in the early days of the revolution, many important Islamic dignitaries have repeatedly told us that the moment they heard the imam's [Khomeyni's] voice saying that he intended to establish an Islamic government, republic, etc, they felt that they had attained victory. Moreover, Muslims, in different parts of the globe, sensed victory. They felt that they had regained pride and honor. [passage omitted]

It was this sense of pride which later on led to Muslims creating all the exciting events in Africa and Asia; events which today form the main preoccupation of the Americans and the other arrogant powers. Yes, they are for sure concerned about these events.

It is because of their concern that these powers say that Iran is dangerous and the Islamic Republic of Iran destroys their interests. Look at Algeria, Egypt, and occupied Palestine. They thought everything was over and done with in occupied Palestine, but now they observe the Muslims waging such a zealous struggle in that land.

Alternatively, look deep into Europe and watch Bosnia, where a group of Muslims, driven by Islam—despite the fact that they know little about Islam—and driven by their Islamic identity—an identity which the Iranian revolution gave them—have risen against their enemies. [passage omitted]

The sense of pride in Islam was rejuvenated in Muslims, and Islam once again endeared itself to them. Muslims felt that Islam brings them pride and honor, and this was one of the blessings of the Islamic revolution. This constituted one of the main dimensions of the revolution, in that it gave our revolution a strategic depth, and the enemies are trying to take this away from us. But, to draw an analogy, how can one deprive someone of his tent, when this tent has been consolidated into the ground with hundreds of ropes, poles and pillars?

What you are witnessing today—that Muslim nations in Asia, Europe, and Africa speak positively of the revolution and support a fatwa issued by the imam [against Salman Rushdie], that they support the Islamic revolution, that they support the Palestine Day on the last Friday of the month of Ramadan, that they welcome such issues and chant slogans to support them—that constitutes a strategic support for the Islamic republic. The enemies cannot bear to see that either.

That was the third issue. The fourth issue concerns rumor and the spread of rumors. One of the most basic phenomena concerning the Islamic revolution—which is

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an unprecedented phenomenon in the level of its strength—is the making of propaganda and spreading of rumors against the Islamic revolution.

Brothers and sisters, from the very first day of the revolution the powers who oppose the Islamic revolution, the powers who oppose Islam, such as the government of America, the government of Britain, the Zionists—here let us make one thing clear, that the government of the Zionists, the usurper government of Israel, is a tool in the hands of America; they have created this government there just for that reason; so that it implements what they want done there—and the news agencies affiliated to them, and the television and radio [stations] affiliated to them, all engaged in a propaganda campaign against the Islamic revolution from the very first day. They have said anything that they could possibly say.

The issue of human rights, which some people may even believe, is one of the false issues created by them. [They say] human rights are being violated in Iran. Why do you say that? Please give us an example, please give us a reason. They give us a list and say that we have executed these persons. Who are these persons? They are heroin-smugglers and they are morphine-smugglers who have been sentenced to death. It is not enough to execute such persons only once. They deserve to be executed more than once if that was possible. That is what they mean by the violation of human rights.

[Another issue is] terrorism. What reason do you have to say Iran is terrorist and that it exports terrorism? They reply by saying: You see what the people are doing in Palestine and in Lebanon? Very well, what has that to do with Iran? In Palestine some of the people have woken up—and yes they have been inspired by the Islamic revolution, no doubt about that—and in Lebanon some of the people have woken up asking why you have imposed the usurper Israel, the homeless Zionists, the false and wrong government of Israel on Lebanon and Palestine? What has that to do with Iran? Is that terrorism? Is it terrorism that some people are defending their homeland? And if they do that, does that mean that Iran is exporting terrorism? You see how ridiculous that is? They spread this matter, they take it to the UN, they take it to the [UN] Human Rights Commission, then newspapers write about it, then another newspaper writes about it, then radio [stations] repeat the same, then television [stations] repeat the same thing. Then they get tired, and a month later they begin repeating the same things for the second time, for the third time, for the fourth time [words indistinct for 20 seconds] to destroy what this revolution has achieved among Muslims and non-Muslims, and of course some simple-minded persons also believe that.

They are the source for all the false propaganda and lies broadcast by the news agencies. They are taking revenge. The colonial American regime and the British regime had huge interests in Iran. The revolution and the nation ended these interests. Now they give themselves the right to take revenge against the nation. Gentlemen, they are the enemy, the enemy. This is the problem. Now some people might come and and mediate because of their so-called wisdom that we should think rationally. Dear fellow!! they have been wounded in this revolution. They will be satisfied only when the revolution departs to allow the thieves to come back to Iran. They will be satisfied only then and no less. In fact the Zionists have the right to be our enemy. We say that Zionism must be uprooted in the Middle East. The Islamic Republic has repeatedly, definitely and firmly said, and will say, that Zionism must be uprooted. Now how could you expect them to be our friends? [crowd chants in approval]

This is the truth. They spread rumors and lies, and of course their propaganda is stronger than ours. We don't have their sophisticated equipment. They have propaganda everywhere and spend a lot of money. They have many radios. They want to infiltrate the country. They want to equip our enemies outside the country. They want to separate our friends from the revolution. They have much propaganda. You should know these things. Of course there are some people of conscience even among the statesmen of these countries. They see the reality and know that reality is different from their propaganda. But the mad excitement of enmity against the revolution is so great in these regimes that these people of conscience don't dare to speak. And if they do they are forced to withdraw their remark. Sometimes an individual can be found among the Americans or the British who has a conscience, who understand the truth and says: Why do you fight Iran like this? Why do you take the Islamic Republic to be an enemy? Are not all these lies? But the mad excitement of grave enmity with the revolution is so great that such remarks are lost among the commotion. This is the truth. But I inform the Iranian nation that all this enmity and hatred is relatively smaller than the strength, steadfastness, and the natural spirit of our revolution. The revolution is much stronger and greater than these talks. They did all they could in the past 15 or 16 years but today, with God's blessing, we are stronger than five years ago. Five years ago we were stronger than ten years ago. Ten years ago we were stronger than 15 years ago, at the beginning of the revolution. The order, the nation, the revolution and the officials have become stronger through the blessings of God.

This is itself a reason that the enemy is incapable of...[congregation chants slogans in his support]... please let me continue because time is short. This itself is reason proving that they have utilized all their efforts to harm the revolution, but they have failed. It will be the same in the future. However, we should not underestimate the enemy's capabilities. We must remain alert.

I assure the Iranian nation that thanks to Almighty succor, the revolution will remain invulnerable. However, you have a burden of responsibility on your shoulder. First, you must preserve your unity. Second,

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you must strengthen the moral of piety among yourselves. Strengthen the belief and reliance on God in your hearts. See how the illustrious imam, despite being all alone at some point, did not submit to the enemy's superficial might. It was because the imam relied on God and had links with God. He considered himself linked to divine power. When someone establishes a link with the undiminishing divine power, he becomes invincible.

You should help this country and this system reach a stage where they become totally invulnerable. Who can do this except you? The Iranian nation, the Iranian Government, and the state authorities should all join hands to make this regime and this country 100 percent invulnerable. You must increase your capabilities. You must extract the country's natural resources to be spent on the right way. You must increase production and efficiency in this country daily. The nation and the government must strengthen their links daily. We must keep alive the slogans of the revolution. We must boost the revolutionary morale of every department of this system daily.

If this country relies on God and moves forward, it will not need anyone's help. You must restrain the mentality of prodigality, which is increasingly found among some people. Why should you buy and waste? Why should one go to a shop, where the shopkeeper humiliates him and resents him? When you, your wife, or your child go to a shop and realize that the shopkeeper is selling you the goods but is at the same time plundering you by overcharging you, you will not go there any more. If you were to realize that the shopkeeper, despite selling you the goods, harbors ill-intentions toward you, you would not shop there again. Why should we knock on a door where the owner cannot bear to see us? Why should we establish ties, trade and financial transactions with those who from the bottom of their hearts wish to work against us? Why should we do this? What is the need for doing so?

We must try and rely on ourselves. We must revive our own resources. The Iranian nation is a great nation. It is an immense power. It has rich resources. We must rely on Almighty God. Ramadan is the month of prayers. Besides all your efforts, you must plead with God and pray for success. May Almighty God bestow his mercy and blessings on you all.

IRNA Denies UK Weekly's Report on Chemical Arsenal

LD0702203695 Tehran IRNA in English 1931 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA—In line with propaganda campaign against Iran, Western mass media renewed their allegations against Iran, claiming that Tehran is to build a chemical arsenal.

The London-based 'SUNDAY TIMES' weekly in its latest issue quoting American intelligence sources accused Iran of construction of chemical arsenal in cooperation with Indian and German companies.

Without presenting any documented evidence the weekly claimed that the Indian and German firms are supplying Iran with the required equipment and raw materials which is used in normally in the production of chemical pesticide and fertilizers.

"According to American intelligence sources, German and Indian firms provided Iran equipment and raw materials normally used in pesticide plants that have helped Iran develop the weapons", SUNDAY TIMES said.

Zionist mass media always accuse Iran in their reports without identifying their sources.

Meanwhile both German and Indian officials have officially denied the charges on the sale of raw material to Iran for production of chemical weapons.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is itself one of the victims of chemical and biological weapons and has always expressed its severe opposition to production and use of such weapons of mass destruction and considers it as violation of humanitarian principles.

Despite heavy casualties of Iranian combatants during the Iraqi imposed war on Iran (1980-88) and its physical and psychological consequences which is obvious among those combatants who were exposed to such chemical attacks, Iran never resorted to use chemical and biological weapons against the Iraqi forces. Meanwhile the weekly itself confessed to this reality saying that during the war, Saddam used cyanide shells, mustard gas and nerve agents on the battlefield. The attacks caused thousands of casualties and demoralised Iranian troops.

The weekly also wrote that the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam Khomeyni "refused to allow its use".

Western mass media affiliated to Zionist regime have repeatedly accused Iran of production and use of chemical weapons during the war years.

They also accuse Iran from time to time of violation of human rights and support for terrorism.

Tel Aviv and its Western allies have recently embarked on a smear campaign to accuse Iran of seeking nuclear weapons.

Such allegations have become routine since China and Russia declared their readiness to help Iran complete Bushehr atomic power plant.

Referring to unidentified sources the international Zionist mass media claimed that Iran will be able to develop nuclear weapons in the near future, but the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly announced that the Iranian nuclear program is pursuing peaceful aims.

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Iran is also a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and according to the Article-4 of the convention Iran holds its right of using the nuclear energy for non-military purposes.

Iran wants to use the atomic energy in the fields of development and construction of the country such as safeguarding a part of the need of the country to the electricity.

The Russian energy minister denied the accusation against Iran and announced that the cooperation of his country with Iran in the field of the atomic energy was not against the international laws and regulations.

Dushanbe Embassy Denies Reports on Tajik Leader

LD0702220995 Tehran IRNA in English 2121 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, Feb. 7, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Tajikistan, in a statement issued Tuesday [7 February], refuted the claims made by the Russian news agency of 'ITAR-TASS' which was broadcasted on Tajik television.

ITAR-TASS had claimed that the leader of the Democrat Party of Tajikistan who lived in Tehran is being prosecuted because of leaving the Islamic Movement Party of Tajikistan.

The statement termed the measure taken by the Russian news agency and the Tajik television as distorting the truth in order to cover the illegal acts made by the leader of Tajik Democrat Party, Shodmon Yusuf and Russian consul to Iran.

Yusuf, with the help of Russian Embassy in Tehran, had provided illegal documents, instead of passport, sealed by the Russian Embassy for a number of Tajik refugees who had illegally entered Iran through Afghan border, the statement added.

The Tajik refugees were arrested by Iranian law enforcement forces some three months ago.

Following the confession made by these people, Yusuf was summoned to the law enforcement center but after few hours was freed upon the recommendation of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Russian consul to Tehran has also been summoned to the Foreign Ministry where he stated that 18 Tajik refugees had received similar papers from Russian Embassy in Tehran, upon the recommendation of Shodmon Yusuf and without informing the Iranian officials.

"In order to justify their illegal acts, Yusuf and ITAR-TASS both pretended that the Iranian Government had exerted pressure on Yusuf because he had left the Islamic parties of Tajikistan", the statement noted underlining that it is a mere lie.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always paid attention to all Tajik refugees, irrespective of their political tendencies and this fact has no relations with Tajik Islamic parties as well as the Democrat Party", it stressed.

According to the report, the Tajik television in a report broadcasted two nights ago quoted Yusuf and the Russian news agency as saying that the leader of Democrat Party of Tajikistan who had lived in Iran for two years, before arriving in Moscow had said that since he had decided to compromise with the Dushanbe Government and cut relations with the Islamic parties in Tajikistan, he was not favored by the Iranian authorities any more.

Some time ago, by submitting a message to the Iranian Embassy here, the Tajik Foreign Ministry expressed its concern over the situation of Yusuf, while before that date, the Tajik regime considered him a criminal and a lunatic.

Commentary on Cairo Statement by Damascus Members

LD0702161795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of the eight countries that signed the Damascus Declaration concluded their two-day session in Cairo on Monday February 6th. The foreign ministers of the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries along with the foreign ministers of Syria and Egypt have dealt with different issues in their concluding statement. Nevertheless, it seems the issue of the renewal of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or the NPT, has eclipsed other issues.

The concluding statement says that the refusal by the Zionist regime to join NPT is counter to the establishment of peace in the Middle East. The stance of the foreign ministers of the eight Arab countries is an indicative of their concern over the continuation of Tel Aviv's nuclear program, especially when there are several reports to the effect that there are more than 200 nuclear warheads in Israel.

On the other hand, the Zionist regime, while refusing to join the NPT, is also declining to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] inspectors to visit its nuclear facilities. The Zionists are offering various pretexts to justify their refusal including the so-called threat of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, which the Zionists say it as a reason behind the production and keeping of nuclear weapons.

This is while Iran and Iraq have not only signed the NPT Treaty but have also been repeatedly inspected by the IAEA inspectors who have confirmed that the two countries are nuclear free.

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Elsewhere, experts maintain that the dogged insistence of the Zionist regime on not becoming a NPT member is certainly being backed up by the U.S. For, otherwise, such a tough stance against the NPT treaty would not be feasible.

Experts also hold that the aim behind the U.S. support for the Zionist regime is to give the regime a pivotal role in organizing the security of the Persian Gulf region. Despite this, subjecting the issue of rejoining the NPT to Tel Aviv's signing the NPT is apparently an appropriate decision. [sentence as heard]

On the other it seems quite illogical that the U.S. and a number of international organizations demand the Arabs to reaffirm their commitment to the NPT. Meanwhile, the observers link the state of suspense experienced by the governments such as Saudi Arabia in joining the club of other Arabs on the NPT issue with its following up Washington's policies.

At any rate, although the foreign ministers of the Damascus Treaty member states' statement will have no great impact on altering the Zionist regime's tough stance on resisting to the joining of NPT it will have some repercussion and stepping up the pressure in the occupied Palestine.

Velayati To Head Delegation to UN Conference

LD0702191895 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi said here on Tuesday [7 February] that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will head Iranian delegation to the United Nations summit on social development due to be held in Copenhagen in March.

He said that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would not attend the summit owing to the coincidence of the U.N. summit with the forthcoming summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) due to be held in Islamabad in March and other preoccupations.

On his visit to Denmark, he said that he discussed ways of expanding economic relations and handling the issues between the two countries.

Va'ezi said that in his meeting with Danish Foreign Minister, Niels Helveg Petersen and other officials he raised the developments in Chechnya, Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. Issues ranging from the developments in the Central Asia, in Europe, the prospect for the European Union and other issues of mutual interest.

He said that he informed Danish officials on the irreversible nature of the late Imam Khomeyni's death decree against the apostate British author Salman Rushdie who blasphemed Islam.

He said that he visited Denmark at the invitation of his Dane counterpart, Ole Lonsmann Polsen and that he held the meetings with the Dane officials according to schedule.

Asked about the refusal of Danish parliamentarians to meet him, he said, "Iranian delegation had not scheduled to meet Danish parliamentarians and I heard to my astonishment that some Danish members of parliament had expressed unwillingness to meet Iranian delegation."

On cancellation of his visit to Sweden and Norway, he said that he had not planned to visit Norway and that he had already rescheduled his visit to Sweden in coordination with his Swedish counterpart, Jan Eliasson to another time.

W. Azerbaijan Province: 132 'Bandits' Surrender

LD0702224895 Tehran IRNA in English 2132 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh, Feb. 8, IRNA—Director general of West Azerbaijan Province in northwestern Iran said that 132 bandits affiliated to grouplets had surrendered to law enforcement forces.

Talking to reporters, he noted that 41 guns, 19 pistols, 5 grenades, two wireless devices, field glasses, cameras and a number of military equipment had been seized from the bandits as well.

The director general added that five repentant members of the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) had also entered the country through neighboring countries and surrendered to provincial intelligence officials.

Saying that during the same period, 17 bandits were also killed in the province and some were arrested, he remarked that members of several espionage networks connected to Iraqi regime and active in this province were also disbanded. The West Azerbaijan province shares 200 kms. of borders with Iraq.

Torrential Rainfall Causes Damage in South

LD0702224295 Tehran IRNA in English 2107 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fars Prov., Feb. 7, IRNA—Ebrahimabad and Beheshtabad villages in this southern Iranian provincial city were inundated with water, certain roads were washed away and regional bridges damaged as a result of flood triggered by torrential rainfall over the past couple of days.

According to a local official flood had ruined by 20 percent the bridges, washed away nine kilometers of rural roads and one hectare of farmlands and inflicted damage on seven schools.

Rainfall, totalling 158 millimeters, blocked roads in northwestern provincial villages to central part of Sepidan town, which is situated 100 km west of this province.

In related news from Genaveh (Boushehr), 15 villages were disconnected as local seasonal rivers were overflown by water triggered by rainfall over the past few days.

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Many residential units east and northeast of this port city are surrounded with water.

Meanwhile, in Shar-e-Kord (Chaharmahal-o-Bakhtiari) 55 villages, including Chelgerd, Bidegan, Dowab, Samsami, Saraqa Seyyed and Bazoft, lost contact as a result of snowfall started falling from Sunday [5 February].

Snowfall in the northeastern provincial city of Chelgerd has also disrupted telecommunication networks.

Relief workers dispatched by Construction Jihad, Roads and Transportation and the law enforcement forces to the area are busy cleansing mountainous regions from snow and rendering help to drivers.

Based on a report rainfall stands at 16.1 mm in Shahre-e-Kord, at 19 mm in Boroujen, at 28 mm in Kouhrang and at 47 mm in Lordegan.

Pakistan

Moscow Paper Cited on Interest in Russian Planes

BK0802114795 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 8 Feb 95 pp 8, 7

[Report by APP]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—Pakistan is interested in buying modern fighter planes from Russia in a move that will dramatically change the whole system of traditional arms purchase in South Asia. Reporting this, the Russian paper MOSCOW TRIBUNE says that Pakistan has expressed interest in buying SU-27 planes for its Air Force. Russian authorities have told Pakistan that the deal will be considered when the Russian Government indicates that it is willing to sell the planes. Meanwhile, France is trying to sell its latest Mirage planes to Pakistan. Pakistan already has the older version of the plane. Citing other unidentified Russian and Pakistani sources, the paper adds that Pakistani and Russian authorities have exchanged views on the sale of other weapons, too, and Russia has sent tanks, artillery, and other weapons to Pakistan for testing.

It may be recalled that for decades Russia was the largest arms supplier to Pakistan's main rival—India—and India will certainly oppose the arms supply to Pakistan. A confrontation had been continuing between Pakistan and the erstwhile Soviet Union for a long time. If Russia supplies arms to Pakistan, then it will ease Pakistan's dependence on the United States. Pakistan is currently facing a ban due to the Pressler Amendment. The paper also says that the Pakistani authorities are divided over the merits of the French and Russian planes. France is Pakistan's proven arms supplier. However, a Mirage would cost up to three times as much as the Russian SU-27 planes. Pakistani authorities, after the dispute with the United States over the F-16 issue, favor arms contracts with several countries instead of one, to ensure the arms supply.

Foreign Minister on U.S. Military Aid Suspension

BK0702153095 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 7 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (PPI)—The National Assembly was told on Monday [6 February] that suspension of the military aid by the United States has adversely affected the country's military capability, as traditionally Pakistan was dependent upon US military hardware and technical assistance.

Foreign Minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in a written reply to a question by Mian Abdul Wahid of PML(N) [Pakistani Muslim League Nawaz faction] said, the Pressler Amendment debarred the US economic and military assistance to Pakistan unless the US president certifies that Pakistan does not possess nuclear explosive. Since, October 1990 when the law came into force, no economic and military aid has been received by Pakistan from the US, he added.

Sardar Asif said, Pakistan had been active in the UN, OIC [ICO] and other international action for the preservation of the territorial integrity of Bosnia against Serbian aggression. We have been calling for the exemption of Bosnia from the international arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council and for bringing to justice those guilty of genocide, ethnic cleansing and other serious human rights violation in Bosnia.

He said, during Pakistan's membership of the UN Security Council, Pakistan initiated moves to urge the council members to consider the authorisation of the use of force against the Serbian aggressors.

In May 1993, he said, Pakistan chaired a meeting of the OIC member countries in New York and succeeded in having a declaration adopted that urged the world community and the Security Council to take forceful and decisive steps for restoring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The minister for Law and Justice ND Khan answering a question said, the PLO had been extending support to Pakistan's position on Kashmir during bilateral talks and the OIC foreign ministers and summit meetings.

Sardar Asif in another written reply to Muzafar Hashmi's question told the house that there was a consensus against extremism and fundamentalism at the Casablanca summit. The summit declaration stressed that the Muslim countries should not allow terrorism and religious extremism.

He said Pakistan actively participated in the deliberations of the summit and the resolution passed on Kashmir at the summit was historic from our point of view as it strongly confirmed that consensus of the Muslim world on the burning issue of Jammu and Kashmir. It has reaffirmed the right of the Kashmiris to self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions.

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Finance Official Reviews State of Economy

BK0802023795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Jan 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, Jan 29: Budget deficit has been brought down to 6 per cent and it would be further reduced by 4 per cent hopefully by the end of current financial year through financial management. This was started by Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs Makhdoom Shahabuddin in an interview here Sunday [5 February].

Makhdoom Shahabuddin contended that the national economy was very much better than it was a year ago. The International Monetary Fund, World Bank and International Finance Corporation, he said, had lauded the economic reforms undertaken by the government and described national economy as stable and sound. What the government or the opposition would say with regard to state of national economy would be rather a biased version as both were the interested parties in their own right but the real picture of the national economy could well be judged from what the IMF and other international financial institutions would say in this regard.

He said there was nothing to worry about reports of revenue collection shortage and added that the revenue targets would be achieved.

According to Makhdoom Shahabuddin, the recent nose-dive in the stock market was nothing unusual and he was not at all alarmed as the market had already started showing an upward trend.

To a question, he said no date has yet been fixed for the meeting of Aid to Pakistan Consortium in Paris for aid package to this country for the next financial year.

He said preparations for 1995-96 federal budget had commenced according to the schedule laid down for this purpose.

Minister Says Karachi Events Linked to Kashmir

BK0802024795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly was informed today by the minister for law and justice, Mr. N.D. Khan, that the government has adopted a three-tier approach of political, administrative, and economic measures to resolve the problem of Karachi. He enumerated some of the measures taken by the government, including a grant of 4 billion rupees for the Sindh police to acquire better communication equipment and arms to deal with violence, terrorism, and dacoity [banditry]. There have been talks with MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], and the latest round of talks have yielded some concrete results. He said the prime minister has given a massive economic package of 121 billion rupees for Karachi, which includes a most important mass transit project. He said bids for this project have been given to a French company, and a letter of intent has been signed.

He assured the house that the government has taken a very serious notice of the attacks in Karachi on the occasion of the nationwide strike observed on Sunday to express solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren. He said these attacks gave a clear hint that some countries who are involved in human rights violations and oppression in Kashmir wanted to divert the attention of the world from the massive support for Kashmiris through the killings in Karachi. He said two enquiries at the national and district level are being held into the two incidents on that day. He said these incidents are linked with the happenings in occupied Kashmir and the government has a necessary proof of involvement of foreign hands. He asked the opposition not to exploit the situation in Karachi for political gains and instead work for improving it.

Earlier, the house held discussion on the situation in Karachi, particularly in the context of killings on Sunday last. A motion to this effect was moved by Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad Hashemi of Jammat-i-Islami and adopted by the house unanimously. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, asked the government to expose those foreign hands who are involved in violence. He said whenever there is any incident in India that country blamed Pakistan of being involved in it to defame Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Attends Africa Conference

BK0702063195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, is attending the five-day conference on Africa being held in Paris to demonstrate Pakistan's solidarity with the African nations. The conference convened by UNESCO is being attended by heads of government and foreign ministers. It is aimed at providing an opportunity to African countries to define their own priorities for social development.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali is to proceed later to Geneva to attend the UN Human Rights Commission meeting.

Sri Lanka

Cessation of Hostilities With LTTE 'Holding'

BK0702123895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cessation of hostilities between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is holding despite certain minor incidents. This was disclosed by the minister of power and energy and deputy minister for defense, Colonel

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Anuruddha Ratwatte, in Parliament today. In a situation of this nature, minor incidents such as these cannot be avoided. However, the minister said, that the government was able to discuss with the LTTE and overcome this problem. The minister was speaking on the proposal to extend the state of emergency in some of the districts in the north and east and some of the divisional secretary divisions [as heard] in the Colombo and Gampaha Districts. He said that the people of the north and east have confidence in the government in its genuine efforts to solve the ethnic problem through political means. They appreciated the relaxing of emergency regulations pertaining to fishing in the northern area and the lifting of some economic sanctions. He also said that the Tamil population are of the view that the solution of this problem can be overcome through political dialogue. [sentence as heard] The minister said that the peace process is now only at preliminary stage. However, the government is determined to solve this problem very soon. Parliamentarian A.C.S. Hameed requested the government to disclose the development of the ongoing talks and the present situation of the country.

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